MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 JANUARY 1987

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian troops continued the Karbala 5 offensive 20-21 January, killing or wounding another 1,500 Iraqis and capturing a township west of Shalamcheh, IRNA reported. On the other hand, Iraqi military sources cited by INA maintained that the Iranian war machine faces imminent "collapse" following the failure of Iran's "decisive" offensive in which it hoped to occupy Basra. The Iraqi sources claimed that 100,000 Iranians have been killed or wounded in the Karbala 5 and 6 operations, with 90 percent of these losses in the south, where Iran has only managed to advance 2.5 km into Iraq along a 4 km front.

Iraqi military statements carried by Voice of the Masses radio announced another wave of air raids on Iranian cities 20 January, including two attacks on Qom and Esfahan, three on Hamadan, and other strikes on Khorramabad, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Tabriz, and Dezful. Iraqi aircraft struck again at Qom, Hamadan, Dezful, and Esfahan early the following morning. IRNA reported that 158 civilians were killed and 432 were injured in the 20 January raids, with the heaviest casualties in Khorramabad and Hamadan. Iranian artillery and air attacks on Iraq killed 43 civilians and injured 191, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. A statement carried by Voice of the Masses asserted that an Iranian F-4 was downed during an Iranian raid, while INA cited an official denial of Iranian claims to have shot down three more Iraqi aircraft.

Kuwait

Oil Fires — Three small fires broke out 19 January at the Al-Maqwa oil complex south of Kuwait City, AFP reported. The fires, thought to be the work of arsonists, occurred as Arab ministers were arriving to prepare for the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, which opens 26 January. Three extremist groups, including the Islamic Jihad, have made threats to Kuwait over the summit. The Islamic Revolutionary Movement threatened to "turn Kuwait into a tomb for most Islamic leaders at the summit," according to the AFP report.

ICO Summit — The ICO secretary general said 27 heads of state have formally notified the ICO of their participation in the forthcoming summit, KUNA reported. The agency cited reports that the presidents of Syria, Iraq, and Egypt will head their countries' delegations. Despite Iran's criticisms of the conference venue, a Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry official said an Iranian delegation will "shortly" arrive in Kuwait to attend the summit, according to KUNA. The official, cited in a statement to *Al-Qabas*, said the level of Iranian representation at the summit was as yet unknown.

Defense Ministry Warning — The Defense Ministry told residents to keep away from strange objects appearing near the coast and also warned people not to gather in areas located within the firing range of the Kuwaiti Air Force, according to KUNA. A Defense Ministry official said "dangerous" sea mines often wash up on Kuwaiti shores as a consequence of the Iran-Iraq war.

Saudi Arabia

Oil Minister Hisham Nazir discussed conditions in the international oil market with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow 20 January, SPA reported. The Soviet news agency TASS described the talks as "constructive."

Lebanon

Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite postponed his departure from Beirut following further talks with the kidnappers of foreigners, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed. In another development, AFP noted that an organization calling itself the "partisans of God" threatened terrorist operations against Italian targets unless Italy releases two Lebanese arrested at Rome Airport in 1984 for possessing explosives. Regarding the death of U.S. hostage William Buckley, Iran's IRNA cited a London magazine report that he was executed by his abductors in Lebanon following an unsuccessful "military rescue operation." The Arabic weekly *Al-'Alam* also asserted that the kidnappers refused a U.S. offer of two million dollars for Buckley's release.

Afghanistan

Afghan resistance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, president of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, said the mujahidin have continued their fighting despite the DRA's cease-fire offer effective 15 January. Hikmatyar said in an interview with XINHUA that Soviet-DRA troops have sustained "heavy losses" as a result of post-cease-fire rebel attacks in Qandahar, Paktia, Kabul, Konduz, and Herat Provinces. Acknowledging the ongoing fighting, Kabul radio reported "all cease-fire conditions" had broken down in Khowst District and Parvan Province. In a statement carried by the radio 20 January, the Supreme Extraordinary National Reconciliation Commission warned that DRA forces would deal "resolute blows" to the opposition groups "in the event of the continuation of combat operations."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

South Asia

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Text of Najibullah 18 Jan News Conference

LD191958 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 18 Jan 87

["Full proceedings" of news conference for foreign journalists given by PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Najib on 18 January at Kabul's Storey Palace; unidentified moderator reads questions from foreign journalists; identification of journalists provided where possible — recorded]

[Text] [Najib] Esteemed journalists: It is a great pleasure for me to see you in the capital of revolutionary Afghanistan, Kabul. I met many of you in October, when we discharged a part of the limited Soviet military contingent. Now, we are pleased to see old friends of Afghanistan and to meet new friends at such a historical stage in our history.

As I read your questions, I thought that almost all the questions focused on one issue, the issue of national reconciliation, but from various angles.

Without a doubt the issue of national reconciliation has created different arguments all over the world and they demand reply about its various aspects, from us, the Afghans.

I can say immediately that there were and are some persons in our country who tried and are trying to organize the process of reconciliation during these days and weeks. I can say clearly that this approach is a bureaucratic and dogmatic approach. We consider the process of reconciliation as the people's political creation. Therefore, it is the people themselves and only the people, as the true creators of history, who will answer in practice and in deed to the various and different aspects of this political process, the process of national reconciliation in our country!

What do we think of the process of reconciliation? The reconciliation is a great historical test. Reconciliation is the alternative to war. Reconciliation is the desire and wish that stems from the heart of our people. Reconciliation is an undiscovered peak that must be conquered. We will, in order to conquer it, sometimes move directly and sometimes indirectly, sometimes up and sometimes down, so as to avoid the obstacles.

The process of reconciliation requires a complex approach, boldness and carefulness, and the drafting and organizing of a mechanism for its realization.

Reconciliation is, in fact, making peace with someone. Therefore, two concerned sides are in question. It is a process that requires compromise and indulgence, farsighted thinking and vision, high political culture and political knowledge, the ability to think about the future and to foresee events. In a word, it is life not in one day.

I understand from the questions that some of the journalists confused the cease-fire with reconciliation and in some cases joined them together. The cease-fire is the primary step in the reconciliation, a specific step along this path. It could be counted as a combined part of the reconciliation. I think it is necessary to say for your information that for 3 days after the announcment of the cease-fire, 2,000 armed men -joined the state in Herat and 500 armed men in Shirin Tagab, Faryab Province. Around 120 families have returned to their dear country.

We met many of you 3 months ago. I hope you have deeply understood all these events that have taken place during these 3 months. We hope to see you again in mid-July in Afghanistan when the end of the cease-fire or the extension of the cease-fire will be decided. Let us agree to start taking questions without further delay because there is much work to be done in revolutionary Afghanistan and time is short. Thank you friends.

[Moderator] Question by the ADN correspondent from the GDR: The process of national reconciliation started in Afghanistan with the beginning of the cease-fire. Is 6 months enough to reach a victory in this direction?

[Najib] The 6 months of cease-fire that we declared unilaterally is enough to settle the national reconciliation issue. But time will show whether this time limit is enough. We are ready to extend this cease-fire after 6 months if the other side observes the cease-fire and gives a firm and permanent character to it, that is the process of peace.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question: If the leaders of the opposite side reject your proposals and unite against you, how would you assess the consequences of this action?

[Najib] It is easy to reject our proposals. You do not need to be too wise to just say no. But rejection of the real demand of people for peace is a very difficult task. If the rejection of reconciliation — that is, the general demand of the people — is put in doubt, then it will be a historical mistake, and even this action could be considered a crime against the people. But, as we express the heart-felt demands and wishes of our people, we can say with full confidence that we will achieve our goal. The consequences will be unpleasant for those who did not listen to the voice of the people. I want to add that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, and other counterrevolutionary leaders started their struggle against their country at the time of King Zaher and Daud, that is, before the April Revolution. Their slogans at that time were different.

Their slogans repeatedly changed according to which foreign power they were looking to. Anyway, they revolted long before the April Revolution, against the national interest of Afghanistan. It might interest you to know that the famous base or position of the counterrevolutionaries in Zhawara in the Maj District of Khowst, which the DRA Armed Forces destroyed in February 1986, was designed, created, and equipped long before the April Revolution, since 1976. According to the documents we found when we captured this base, it was formed secretly and with the financial assistance of foreign forces who had an interest in destabilizing the situation in the region. I want to repeat again that people such as Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and others, embarked on anti-Afghan, antipeople activities, and activities against our dear country, before the establishment of the people's sovereignty in our country. We leave you to judge.

[Moderator] Another question by the same correspondent: Which of the political opposition personalities have announced their

readiness to return home, after your declaration on national reconciliation?

[Najib] Serious and active communication and talks are going ahead. We are waiting for constructive proposals from the opposite side. Their proposals will be welcomed and we are ready to have any type of talks or meetings with them.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question: Recently the Soviet Union has embarked on talks with Pakistan and Iran. Has any signal been received from Islamabad or Tehran that they might end support for the armed bands?

[Najib] We do not have such official information in our hands up to now.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question: Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze recently announced that economic relations between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan have entered a new stage. Please explain which spheres will be covered by these relations?

[Najib] It covers various spheres. We have mentioned several times that economic relations with the Soviet Union form the basis for Afghanistan's development. These relations are strengthening constantly. Just in the last year, new, extended plans were discussed during the visit of Comrade Keshtmand to Moscow and Comrade Murakhovskiy to Afghanistan, about which, no doubt, you have information. During the visit of Comrades Shevardnadze and Dobrynin, the creation of establishments for a small productive network to provide employment for those who return home, was discussed and assessed. Mixed machine manufacturing establishments and metal work, including the broad attraction of private national investors will be developed. Trade relations, particularly border trade, will be strengthened. All cooperation on these issues will strengthen our cooperation in the big productive establishments of the state sector.

[Moderator] Thank you. Questions from the *Unsere Zeit* correspondent from the Federal Republic of Germany: Some of the mass media consider the national reconciliation policy proclaimed by you to be the weakness of Kabul. Isn't this policy evidence of the extended mass influence of the PDPA on the people?

[Najib] You are completely right. The PDPA Central Committee, by announcing the national reconciliation policy, in fact, expressed its powerful and strong high political will. In fact, this issue is evidence of the power and influence of the PDPA and the support and backing of the masses for this policy. We invited our opponents to conduct a dialogue because we are powerful and propose to end this useless bloodshed now.

The point is that we do not want to solve these issues by using force. We are thinking about our people's future, not about destroying our people.

(Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same correspondent: The PDPA is ready for great concessions in the framework of national reconciliation. What are the limits of these concessions? With whom are you ready for reconciliation?

[Najib] Everything has been said about these issues. We are ready for reconciliation with all those who will stand on the patriotic platform with us in one trench with those who want a free, independent, democratic, nonaligned, and prosperous Afghanistan. With whom will we not reconcile? We will not reconcile with those who carry on the war and fratricide and the profession of banditry. We will put at your disposal today all documents in connection with your questions.

[Moderator] Another question by the correspondent of *Unsere Zeit*. Doesn't the 6 months cease-fire pose a threat to you? The opposition could be very well equipped during such a time and could formulate its joint strategy.

[Najib] We will not allow the opponents to use the cease-fire to achieve their goals. I will say clearly before you that there has never been a joint strategy among our opponents. It is also impossible for them to have a united strategy in the future because the extremists have shown themselves to be very selfish people. You know better than we how they fight among each other.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question by the same correspondent. What role, in your opinion, can the FRG, as a member of NATO and a close ally of Washington, play in the next few months?

[Najib] If the FRG wants to, it can play a positive role in the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. For this reason, it is necessary that the ruling circles of your state stop fanning the issue of Afghanistan in the international arena and in the Bundestag. Last October, journalists told us that there was a special school near Munich for training our opponents. Unfortunately, we consider this to be direct interference into our affairs.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the FRG correspondent. Some mass media have conjectured that recent events in Afghanistan are taking place under so-called pressure from Moscow. Is there any disagreement between the Soviet Union and the DRA in connection with a solution to Afghanistan's problem?

[Najib] In connection to a solution for the situation around Afghanistan there is no disagreement between the USSR and the DRA. Our talks with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev revealed the complete concurrence of both sides' views concerning this issue. We expressed our points of view and our policy concerning national reconciliation and the Soviets supported us.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of Soviet television, Leshchinskiy. Are there any incidents of the cease-fire being breached by the opposite side?

[Najib] Unfortunately, there are such incidents. Right now it is difficult to judge what this stems from: ignorance, provocation, or deliberate actions. It is early yet and we refrain from summing it up.

[Moderator] Thank you. There is another question from one of the American journalists from NBC. You said that you had reached an agreement on the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. Could you explain when the next troops will be withdrawn and when these forces will be withdrawn completely?

[Najib] A timetable for the withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingents was prepared long ago. In connection with this timetable, agreement has also been reached between the leadership delegations of our states. Its conditions have been specified, that is, an end to outside interference and aggression and a guarantee for its nonresumption. If the opposite side gives a positive response to our readiness, the return of the Soviet limited contingents will be accelerated.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the ABC representative. It has been said in the United States that the Government of Afghanistan cannot exist without the presence of the Soviet troops. Is that so?

[Najib] You have seen Kabul. You have also seen the provinces of our country. We have a half million armed forces. I could say to you with confidence that our people's sovereignty is stronger than ever. We are able to gain victory over the hostile internal forces. But, the issue in question is the interference and aggression of the other forces from the outside. The temporary existence of the Soviet limited contingents is the guarantor of the independence of our country during continued interference and aggression.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same correspondent. Your country has suffered many losses. Could you say how many of your compatriots live in other countries? How many have been martyred? In your opinion, how much time does Afghanistan need for its restoration?

[Najib] According to estimates, more than 2 million Afghans live outside of our country. Of course, it is a common tragedy for us, the Afghans. In this tragedy there are thousands of human beings who are the victims of the undeclared war. It is difficult to say that a short time is needed to heal the wounds of the war launched by imperialism, regional reaction, and the counterrevolunaries. But we believe that if peace will be ensured by the joint efforts of Afghanistan's people, with the help of our reliable friends, first of all the Soviet Union, then we will be able to ensure the restoration of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Questions by the reporter from WAFA from Palestine: What guarantees exist that the gains of the revolution will not be reversed and that the revolution will not face defeat?

[Najib] The revolutionary process in Afghanistan is irreversible because the will of the people and their effort to improve life is in progress. This is the greatest guarantee for the irreversibility of the revolutionary process in our country.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question by the WAFA reporter: Will the opponents give a positive reply to the policy of national reconciliation?

[Najib] This question should be put to them. However, I think to whatever extent the voice of address is strong, to that extent this matter will be beneficial to the cause of peace in our country as well as in the region and in the world.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the WAFA reporter: What is the stand of the United States?

[Najib] So far it cannot be said that the U.S. approach to our country has been improved. Evidence exists that imperialist circles have approached the thought of our reconciliation with dissatisfaction. They are making efforts to neutralize this process in its genesis. It is comprehensible that the ruling circles in the United States are interested in keeping the DRA a bleeding wound.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same reporter: I imagine the policy of national reconciliation emanates from the policy of M. Gorbachev based on the establishment of a lasting peace. How far can it be said that this initiative is the result of the policy of easing tension between the two powers?

[Najib] We completely and comprehensively support the peace-seeking efforts of the USSR in the international arena. The new political thinking, the new political philosophy, and the compromises are the highway of the salvation of mankind. The majority of the world's countries and the peoples of the world support this policy. The gathering of the Nonaligned Movement in Harare is the complete (?proof) of this matter.

The policy of reconciliation is a path toward the solution of a great number of regional issues in our contemporary world. Compromise in Cambodia is mentioned. Compromise in Lebanon is discussed as is compromise in Chad. It is possible that this process will have fruitful influence on the process of the consolidation of detente in the future.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same reporter: In the event of the rejection of national reconciliation by the opposition, what alternatives will be utilized?

[Najib] We previously said that compromise is the alternative of war. The rejection of the alternative of reconciliation is wanting war. I would like to state clearly that if this happens, that choice will not be ours.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same reporter: How do you assess the Afghan-Pakistan talks, which are being conducted through the representative of the UN secretary general, in light of the cease-fire decision?

[Najib] The cease-fire is a step that in our belief should expedite the process of the Geneva negotiations and help toward the speedy and successful solution of the situation.

[Moderator] Thank you. Questions from a journalist who has not given his name: What is the role of cease-fire for the number of Afghans who are returning home?

[Najib] The cease-fire for them is the maintaining of security. It is security for those who return to their kind homeland, who desire a peaceful life and work in their beloved country.

[Moderator] Thank you. What will be the relations of Afghanistan with the neighboring countries after reconciliation?

[Najib] Afghanistan had and has friendly relations with many countries and it has also had friendly long-standing relations with its neighbors. These relations emanate from ancestral traditions. Of course, under the conditions of reconciliation and after its successful completion, these relations will develop. We Afghans always prefer friendship and answer good deed with good deed.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the reporter of Hungarian television. Would the PDPA allocate the leading organs of the Armed Forces and the security organs to those who join a government of national unity after the establishment of such a government?

[Najib] Discussing the details of this question may be premature. However, we could say that there exists a proposal that the armed groups who are ready for reconciliation with our revolutionary power may join the composition of the DRA Armed Forces. It means that the commanders of these groups could join our Armed Forces.

[Moderator] Question from *Mainichi* newspaper, Japan: In my opinion, relations between the United States and the Soviet Union influence the solution of the situation around Afghanistan. Is the settlement of the Afghanistan issue possible under conditions of worsening relations between these two countries after the Reykjavik meeting?

[Najib] Let us not seek direct links between USSR-U.S. relations, on the one hand, and the internal affairs of Afghanistan on the other. National reconciliation is our internal affair. However, its success will certainly come sooner under conditions of noninterference by imperialist forces, such as the United States, who finance our opponents, equip them with the most modern weapons, and send instructors for their training.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question from the correspondent of *Mlada Fronta* newspaper, CSSR: What is the role of the youth and the DYOA in the revolutionary process?

[Najib] The role of our youth is great in every revolution. In our country, Afghanistan, the youth play a vanguard role in the construction of the country, in peaceful work, and in self-sacrificing defense of revolutionary sovereignty in the country. The role of our youths and their vangaurd, the DYOA, is also great in the process of national reconciliation. Thousands of our youths in the provinces and towns are engaged in a great and mobilizing campaign in order to attract support for this policy. They function according to the principle that every member of the DYOA should not only defend himself but should also defend his family, his home, his village, his town, and his country. The party highly assesses the activities of the DYOA, has great confidence in its youth, and regards them as a reserve force in support of the PDPA.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question from the correspondent of *Helsingin Sanomat*, Finland: What changes have occurred in the civil war in Afghanistan during the past year that have caused you to decide on national reconciliation?

[Najib] Our positions have been consolidated. The social pillars of the revolution are constantly expanding. We have become more powerful, and it is power that bears wisdom. We now see the prospects and are getting closer to victory. It is only because of this that we do not want futile sacrifices. We know very well that this war is a war of fratricide and an undeclared and imposed war on our people. We want all of our compatriots to realize this and become united against this war.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same correspondent: What measures will be taken in regard to rural inhabitants so that they can regard themselves as part of the national reconciliation policy?

[Najib] All of our measures and proposals are embodied in the statement of the DRA Revolutionary Council in connection with the policy of national reconciliation. However, we can say that the rural population are direct participants in the process of national reconciliation. Apart from this, reconciliation begins from the villages and their peace councils. During the past month, more than 400 peace councils have been held in our villages. This makes it possible for national reconciliation to rise from the hearts of the millions of our rural masses and to be implemented in practice.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same correspondent: How can Afghan political figures who live abroad take part in the political process in Afghanistan?

[Najib] We are ready to meet them in our homeland and to hold talks with each of them. We have previously mentioned the principles according to which these people would be able to take part in the political life of a new Afghanistan. For your information, a group of four such people arrived today in Kabul from the United States.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of *Trybuna Ludu*, Poland: What are the damages caused by the war in Afghanistan?

[Najib] There are a number of measures by which we can estimate these damages. Direct economic damage includes what has been destroyed by explosions and otherwise. Such damages amount to 50 billion afghanis. Indirect economic damages, that is what we would have been able to build, fulfill, or achieve had it not been for the war, amounts to much more than direct damage. Finally, our main damages consist of loss of life and human losses: thousands of martyred, maimed, and wounded Afghans. As a result of this destructive war, which has caused suffering to thousands of our families, the cries of mothers have reached the skies, the tears of orphans flow every day, and black chadors are increasing. That is why we oppose this inhumane war and demand its urgent cessation, even from those who are the so-called champions of human rights.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question from the correspondent of the Japanese news agency KYODO TSUSHIN: Please say what you expect of the Soviet Union in view of your national reconciliation policy.

[Najib] We were waiting for their support for our policy and received it in full. During talks with Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, and Comrade A.F. Dobrynin we were further convinced that our Soviet friends sincerely wish peace and prosperity for our people. They are prepared to give any kind of necessary assistance and support to the policy of national reconciliation.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the correspondent of the Japanese press agency, JPS: What do you think about Afghanistan's relation with your neighbor China? What measures have been taken by your government regarding the development of these relations?

[Najib] China is a great country with which we had traditionaly friendly, reciprocal, and beneficial relations. Our people warmly welcomed the revolution in China. This revolution influenced the development of democratic tendencies in Afghanistan. At present, we are making efforts in various ways and in different forms toward the development of good-neighborly relations with socialist China. Such steps are taken in all directions including diplomatic channels. On behalf of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission, we have sent a specific message addressed to the people and Government of the People's Republic of China.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the correspondent of [name indistinct] newspaper, Japan: The joint official communique at the end of the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Kabul says that a timetable will be agreed upon in UN-sponsored talks for the return of Soviet forces to their country. Is the Afghan side prepared to advance new proposals regarding a timetable in the next round of the Geneva talks?

[Najib] I do not want to give away proposals prepared for the next round of talks in Geneva in advance. However, concerning a timetable for the return of the limited USSR contingent, as I have said before, such a timetable was mutually agreed upon a long time ago by the Governments of the DRA and the Soviet Union. The main issue lies in when and from which date this timetable will be implemented. Talks will also be held in Geneva in this regard.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the correspondent of *Los Angeles Times* from the United States: After the Soviet Union's intervention in 1979, a great number of Afghans left their country. Will they return before the withdrawal of the Soviet forces?

[Najib] Let's not use the word intervention. This word does not conform with reality. Here the question is on fraternal essistance. Assistance from people to people, assistance from a friend to friend, selfless and disinterested assistance. The people of the Soviet Union have sustained many sacrifices because of us. Such phenomena which have great and lofty humane value in friendship and fraternity should not be trampled upon. Examples of such phenomena are rare in the history of friendship between countries, especially in the friendship of your country, the United States.

In connection with Afghans who have left their homeland, this problem started long before the arrival of the Soviet forces. Some people left in the first months after the overthrow of the Da'ud monarchy. Without any preliminary conditions, we desire their return. The sooner their return the sooner the situation will return to normal. It is not necessary for Afghans to link their return to their country with the return of the Soviet forces. The sooner peace arrives and the sooner refugees return, the speedier will be the return of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union.

[Moderator] Question by the *Newsweek* magazine correspondent from the United States: You in your speech at the NFF second congress pointed out that national reconciliation does not mean the present government will give up power. Could you specify the role of the party in case of the victory of the national reconciliation policy.

[Najib] I have just talked about this. But I should say that the PDPA has carried out its historical mission today. It is the inspiring force and organizer that has the initiative in the design of national reconciliation. In the meantime, we can say that the PDPA is not claiming a monopoly on power and is ready for compromise and cooperation with other political forces in building a progressive society in Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Another question by the *Newsweek* correspondent: To what extent does the Soviet Union play a role in the changes in Afghanistan? As has been reported in the West, isn't Afghanistan to be transformed into the 16th republic of the Soviet Union?

[Najib] Maybe in our country in the bazaar, or in your expression in the market, which is sometimes the basic source of information especially and usually for you, they might say that the United States wants to make Afghanistan its 53d [as heard] state. Do not come here and speak of rumors as one would in the bazaar at such a high and official level. If you do it will give a silly characteristic to our talks. I decisively declare once again that Afghanistan's internal affairs are ours alone and that the Soviet Union does not interfere in them. You see it yourself. At one time we requested help from the Soviet Union and they rendered assistance to us. We now discuss the complexities of the national reconciliation policy with its extended and broad internal and exteral dimension, including the return of the limited Soviet military contingents from Afghanistan and the Soviet Union supports us. All the initiatives being put forward by us are being supported by our friends. We cannot do anything but express our heartfelt thanks to them. They have benevolently supported us each time and helped us in the realization of these initiatives.

Moderator] Another question from the *Newsweek* correspondent: What is Babrak Karmal's current position? Is he living and working in Afghanistan? What is he doing?

[Najib] Comrade Karmal is enjoying his retirement. The 20th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee accepted his request to be discharged from his duties. He receives a state pension and his

privileges are (?preserved). He lives in Kabul, and what he is doing, I think, is his private business.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the *Newsweek* correspondent: If the cease-fire is ineffective and the rebels continue their activities with the assistance of the West, will the Soviet forces remain in Afghanistan? If yes, for how long?

[Najib] If the imposed war continues despite our efforts to end it, our Soviet friends will not leave us alone in misery and sorrow. The leadership of the Soviet Union has time and again spoken about this. However, we are optimistic and believe that the war will end. If anyone wants to continue it, then we can handle such people within Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the representative of the Finland-Afghanistan Friendship Society: Is there any program underway to improve women's conditions in the country? What are the main aspects of this program?

[Najib] In present-day Afghanistan, a lot of work has been carried out and is underway for improving women's conditions. Material and social assistance are being given to them, such as maternity leave and the construction of nurseries. Similarly, many examples exist of women attracted to active political life. Today, in the local organs of state power and administration, more than 400 women act as peoples' delegates. The role of women in education, training, public health, and other areas of [word indistinct] is great in the life of our country. In a word, the role of women in Afghanistan is becoming more active toward improving their lives and their participation in social life.

[Moderator] Question by a representative of Pan-Cypriot Labor Federation: How do you assess the United States's reaction toward the Afghan Government's initiatives on natonal reconciliation?

[Najib] As I have already pointed out, at present U.S. reaction toward the national reconciliation is negative.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of *The Washington Post*: Is national reconciliation possible while Soviet forces are on Afghan territory?

[Najib] We are fully convinced that it is possible, and for those of you who are surprised at this, I can say that after an agreement in Geneva and depending on the successful progress of the process of national reconciliation inside the country, noninterference and nonaggression and guarantees of its not being repeated, the Soviet forces will rapidly decrease and completely return to their peaceful country.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same correspondent: If the cease-fire is implemented and the process of national reconciliation develops, how many Soviet troops will remain in Afghanistan?

[Najib] No troops will remain. If the war ends all Soviet Union internationalist troops will return to their country after accomplishing their internationalist duties.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question from the correspondent of *Al-Anba'* newspaper from Kuwait: Will the government allow a multi-party system in Afghanistan?

[Najib] We have proposed that those Islamic parties ready to compromise with revolutionary sovereignty enlist in the DRA National Front. Provided they do not violate the DRA norms and laws, they can preserve their organizational structure and continue their political activities in accordance with the law. If you regard this a multi-party system then assume that we have allowed for it. Moreover, I would like to point out that the authority of the PDPA at present has gone up to the extent that recently four leftist democratic organizations joined the PDPA. Yesterday, on the basis of a protocol, an agreement was reached on the completion of the ideological and political unity of the greatest organization that is the Revolutionary Organization of the Toilers of Afghanistan, SAZA, [sazman-e enqelabi-e zahmatkashan-e afghanistan] with the PDPA.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question from the reporter of NHK television company from Japan: If those in opposition do not support the unilateral cease-fire, what effect will this have on the policy of national reconcilation?

[Najib] We will consistently follow our policy whatever the conditions. However, undoubtedly if the enemy's reply to the cease-fire is to continue with combat operations, then we will be forced to give them a crushing rebuff with the powerful force of the Armed Forces.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of *(?Il Tempo)* from Italy: When will the complete nationwide conciliation in Afghanistan be achieved? Can we expect the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces? Will the Afghan Government demand their military cooperation.

[Najib] There will be no need for any kind of military presence after achieving national reconciliation. Naturally, after the establishment of peace and national accord and the signing of Geneva agreements, the need for the presence of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan will be removed.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the correspondent of *Le Figaro* from France: Foreign observers in Kabul have doubts about the real possibilities of the realization of national reconciliation. Does national reconciliation, from a political point of view, mean that opposing forces must recognize the laws of the revolution?

[Najib] To have doubts is your and others' right. We have the duty to work and struggle to achieve victory. We do not demand that the opposing side recognize all the laws of the revolution. We are ready to compromise, to talk, and to express most of our stances. I would like to point out that we propose dialogue based on equality and do not dictate this dialoque from the top. I think these conditions will be democratic, acceptable, and honorable for all the opposition.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same correspondent: From the political point of view, in the history of Afghanistan all alliances and compromises have always been

unstable. Can you be assured today that the groups who join the government will also maintain this alliance in the future?

[Najib] We have no reason for doubts in this regard. For those who have joined us and have become united with us, reconciliation has been so attractive and in their interests that it can hardly be ignored. For example, leftist and democratic groups that have united with the PDPA can be given as a significant model and example.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the correspondent of *The Baltimore Sun* from the United States: What is the DRA Government's stand regarding the rebel's demand of direct talks with the Soviets in connection with national reconciliation?

[Najib] I think this issue depends on people's power in Afghanistan, which has proposed reconciliation with all forces of opposition. Reconciliation is an internal Afghan affair and only Afghans should settle this problem among themselves.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the correspondent of *Patriot* from India: The process of national reconciliation, which is an important phase of the revolution in Afghanistan, began on 15 January. What is your understanding of the participation of various social groups and forces in eliminating internal problems?

[Najib] It should be said that the cease-fire, as a complement of national reconciliation, has come into force from 15 January. Discussion of national reconciliation goes back a long time. However, it should be said that national reconciliation is a very new, serious, and broad issue. Some time ago at the extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, we spoke about this in detail. National reconciliation is really possible with the active participation of all groups and social strata. They are seriously interested in peace and security. We now feel our people's warm welcome viscerally and we also expect their active participation. Our understanding and hope regarding the participation of various groups and strata of the country's population in this process have been published in the reports on the extraordinary plenum.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the reporter of Radio Sweden: Why do you think that now is the most suitable time for the cease-fire and national reconciliation?

[Najib] Any time is suitable for goodwill and noble work. Why do we carry out this work at this particular time? [passage indistinct — 2-minute break in transmission]

[Moderator] Another question from the Radio Sweden correspondent: How and on what basis has the Commission for National Reconciliation been established? How many such commissions have been established so far?

[Najib] The Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation has been established at the initiative of the Ulema and Clergy Council of the DRA in the framework of the DRA National Front. Such commissions have also been established in all provinces of our country. The national commission will also begin work on the level of districts and subdistricts.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the correspondent of *Helsingin Sanomat* from Finland: What order will be established in the country after the cease-fire?

[Najib] A democratic order, based on our traditions and customs and in conformity with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam, will be established. However, we should reach specific agreement in this regard. Therefore, we have postponed approval of the DRA Constitution. Let the concerned parties also put forward their proposals to be included in the new DRA Constitution before it acquires legal status.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the correspondent of the *Los Angeles Times* from the United States: How can this process be called national reconciliation when the opposing side does not want to reconcile with Najib's regime while more than 100,000 Soviet troops are present in Afghanistan?

[Najib] I am sorry that you still do not know the official name of our country. I would like to once again tell you the official name of my country: The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. I hope that after this you do not mistake our democratic regime with regimes where individual dictatorships rule, where scandals like Irangate happen. Our democratic order is not a regime of individuals. The policy of conciliation not supported by one side is called the continuation of war. We know well that you warmongers are interested in the continuation of this war. Let us try to overcome pessimism. Let us think peace instead of war. Let us think in terms of the maintenance of world peace rather than think of using force. Let us speak about new political thinking, about talks, compromises, and discussions, because you and I here are not in question, the question is of the destiny of mankind and humanism. If you remain indifferent toward mankind and humanism, then resolutely and honorably abandon the claims of defending human rights. We will overcome pessimism. We rely on the future of Afghanistan, not its past.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by a correspondent of PRENSA LATINA from Cuba: Please tell us about the withdrawal of the Soviet forces after the six regiments were withdrawn from Afghanistan. Which will be the very first regiment to be withdrawn?

[Najib] I repeat again, if the Geneva agreements are signed and the national reconciliation can be ensured, then the entire limited Soviet contingent will withdraw from Afghanistan to their country. When will the first Soviet regiment return home? You are aware that many Soviet regiments returned to their country in 1986. Recently, during the withdrawal of the six Soviet regiments, many friendly journalists were with us for the ceremony and paid farewell to them. Of course, the apparatus that spreads lies was disseminating propaganda throughout the Western mass media during the days before the Soviet regiments left Afghanistan. We consider this immoral. Today is the time not to think of the first regiment but the last regiment.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by Hungarian television's correspondent. Under a national unity government, who will lead the DRA Armed Forces? The PDPA or the government?

[Najib] The PDPA, which is entrusted with the general political leadership of society will head the Armed Forces. At present, it has been made my duty to lead the DRA Armed Forces. This is a state duty, not a party duty.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the daily *Pravda*, Comrade Okulov. How is the reconstruction of party work going on within the spirit of the 19th and 20th PDPA Plenums?

[Najib] Reconstruction is continuing, but not as successfully as we would like. I should say clearly that there are obstacles confronting reconstruction. In some places these obstacles result from misunderstandings and in others from incompetence. We are seriously determined, however, to carry out reconstruction because we believe it is the continuation of revolution.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by a correspondent of *The Washington Post* from the United States: You have said that some members of the previous government will be accepted in the composition of the national unity government. Is there any contact with any of the previous members of Kabul's government?

[Najib] We invited a few former ministers into the government after the 16th PDPA Plenum. Yesterday, Sorabi, former minister of the monarchal regime, and Pazhwak, former internal affairs minister and minister of education under various regimes and now the minister-adviser, both spoke before you. Such work is continuing.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the REUTER correspondent from England. If King Zaher returns to take part in the national reconciliation, will he be welcomed?

[Najib] The doors of our home are open to all who approach us in friendship.

[Moderator] Thank you. Questions by Salam Musafir, the correspondent of *Al-Anba'*, Kuwait. As you know, the Islamic conference will be held at a high level at the end of this month. What is your view on this forum and what role will this conference play in solving the issue of the situation around Afghanistan?

[Najib] Since Afghanistan is a Muslim country, it wants the comprehensive development of relations with all Muslim countries. About the role of the Islamic conference: Its role could be very great in the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. We have reflected this request in our special message addressed to the conference. It should be pointed out that at this upcoming conference, a delegation of the DRA and our journalists have also been invited to this conference.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from a correspondent of *Al-Anba'*. The Western mass media announce that there are disagreements in the PDPA in connection with the national reconciliation policy. What can you tell us about this?

[Najib] The decisions of the 19th, 20th, and the extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee in December comprise proof of the active support for this policy.

[Moderator] Question by the *U.S. News & World Report* correspondent: What is your view about the decisions in connection with the non-acceptance of the cease-fire and the creation of a so-called government in exile, and also the rebels' call to continue the armed struggle?

[Najib] It should be said regrettably that it has been a narrow-minded stand, emanating from the lack of care for the people of Afghanistan, emanating from the lack of self-confidence, and from a lack of confidence in the people of Afghanistan. The most important thing is that the people of Afghanistan want peace. Under the present circumstances putting an end to fratricide has become the fundamental and primary demand of the people of Afghanistan. We know these gentlemen deal frivolously with this vital question. However, this extent of absolute ludicrousness and disrespect for the people of Afghanistan and their demands, is a matter of surprise for all; it has earned the unlimited hatred of the people of Afghanistan.

However, this irresponsible stand will not affect our announced policy. We will firmly pursue the policy of the PDPA Central Committee, the policy of the Supreme Council of National Reconciliation, and the second congress of the National Fatherland Front. What we have said we shall carry out. However, it should be categorically stated: Could a few groups, which on the basis of (?information) by the Western mass media are notorious for their disunity, represent all the opposing groups and political organizations? No. On the other hand, the way the question of the unanimity of view of the majority was presented in their first meeting is indicative of serious differences in connection with this matter. Also, they cannot represent all those who within the ranks of these counterrevolutionary organizations are tired of war, who have realized the futility of war, and who desire peace. Furthermore, they cannot represent the absolute majority of the refugees. At this very moment the broad masses of refugees have come out with serious criticism regarding such a state of affairs. And so forth and so on. Also, they cannot represent the broad armed groups inside the country who are thirsting for peace.

Earlier I stated that every day, without interruption, one or two armed groups in large numbers welcome the policy of national reconciliation and national accord in the DRA, and join the DRA. Such is the reality of events inside our country, inside the camps and with the refugees, and in the ranks of those ludicrous counterrevolutionary elements.

With the correct realization of these realities, the practical, constructive, and creative slogan of the policy of national reconciliation has begun. With these reserves of forces and on these bases we shall stride forward, and we will achieve it.

A part of the irresponsible stand of the so-called seven parties residing in Pakistan is very ludicrous too. In their statement they talked about free elections, the drafting of a constitution, and the creation of a parliament. The drafting of a constitution is the task of states — states which have land, capital, and a recognized official flag. They are officially recognized in the credible international forums. You know very well that they lack these conditions. These claims could not be anything else but propaganda without substance. Wait for the development of events.

[Moderator] Thank you, Comrade Najib. The questions submitted by the journalists have ended. They have received their necessary replies. Right now, I will read some other questions that have reached us. Here is a question by a journalist from the magazine *Akhir Sa'ah*, Egypt. What could you say to Arabs about the issue of Afghanistan?

[Najib] We have many common historical and cultural bases, and we are jointly struggling on the path toward peace. We wish the Arabs permanent and constant peace.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by the WAFA correspondent from Palestine. The savage attacks of the Amal Movement have been seriously regarded against the Palestinian refugees' camps in Lebanon. What is the official stand of Afghanistan in regard to these attacks?

[Najib] We are in favor of the freedom of the friendly people of Palestine. We support their cause of fighting for their freedom and for national sovereignty. We wish them success. We hope for their victories in this justified struggle.

[Moderator] The correspondent from Soviet television has a question: How do you assess the role of private investment in the national reconciliation process?

[Najib] This role is becoming more notable every day. We make a great deal of effort in this work. Examples of cooperation are being created every day. We are interested in transforming these examples into an orderly system. I have already answered a question in relation to this issue.

[Moderator] Thank you.

[Najib] Well friends, the official questions you submitted have been answered. You may have some new questions on your minds now. I am at your service to answer them.

[Moderator] Question from Hungarian television. As we see here in Kabul, the basis for national reconciliation is principly Islam. On the other hand, the armed opposition says that they are fighting against the DRA Government on the same basis. Would you comment on this first? Second, it has been said that you, Comrade Najib, and members of the government attend prayers at the mosques. What is the position of the PDPA toward Islam?

[Najib] The system in our country is democratic. It conforms with the norms and principles of Islam and it will continue to follow the laudable customs, traditions, and habits of our people. The position of the PDPA on Islam is that we plan to declare Islam the religion of the Afghan people in the new DRA Constitution.

[Moderator] He says that he has asked his question in writing but has not been answered. At the end of this month in Kuwait, there will be an Islamic conference. Will opposition representatives take part in this conference? He also says that at the Geneva conference, talks are due to be held with the participation of the representatives of Pakistan, Iran, the Soviet Union, the United States, and the representatives of the anti-state armed forces. What is your view on this? This question was from [name indistinct]

[Najib] In connection with the first part of your question on whether our opponents will take part in the Islamic conference — during earlier replies, I told you that our journalists and correspondents will take part in this conference. Our delegation will also take part in the exhibition which is due to be held there. Meanwhile, I should add that the DRA flag will be at the conference for the first time.

In connection with the second part of your question, we support all benevolent efforts by various sides toward ensuring peace and settlement of the political situation around Afghanistan. But, we can clearly say that while the Geneva talks are reaching final settlement, other variables and alternatives are being discussed. We have walked a long way and now expect results.

[Unidentified journalist in English, fading to superimposed Dari translation] Thank you. I have two questions: You have been reported in the past to speak of ending factions and divisions within the PDPA. How far have you succeeded in that? My second question is that there has been a lot of speculation about the deployment of Soviet Forces in Kabul on Thursday night [15 January]. Could you give your (?reply) as to what this really was?

[Najib] Concerning the first part of your question: Differences of opinion exist in various parties in the world. The existence of differences in position is possible, and this process could proceed even to the creation of a faction. This event occurs not only in progressive, leftist, and democratic parties, but happens several times more in bourgeois parties. However, we assure you that now the process of unity of the PDPA is being consolidated from day to day. The question of unity, not only inside the party, but with other leftist and democratic parties too, is being solved effectively, resolutely and fruitfully.

In connection with the second part of your question, we have announced a cease-fire, not the cessation of all military activities and measures, and the performance of military tasks. Our units and companies could change their bases; they could engage in patrol duties and could play an active part in transporting goods to the people of Afghanistan and in transporting foodstuffs from one locality to another and from one province to another. This is one side of the matter. The other side is that we announced a cease-fire on 15 January. On the basis of substantial information that has now been finalized, a number of parties have ordered their armed groups in the country to disrupt the peaceful and secure situation on that day in various regions and localities.

Something else should be brought to your attention. The Revolutionary Council's announcement that members and group leaders of the opposing armed groups could come to the cities provided they were not armed was incorrectly understood by some. We have information that in some provinces these groups were coming to the cities; however, some of them were armed. In order to prevent such incidents — in which provocationist groups were to use the Revolutionary Council announcement to enter the cities and organize measures — we were completely ready to disarm them. In this way the DRA, to successfully implement the cease-fire and policy of national reconciliation, not only continues its political vigilance, but keeps it at its highest level. Our measures on that day were due to this conscious fact and our combat readiness.

[ABC correspondent in English fading into Dari translation] My name is Rogers. I am with the *American Broadcasting Company*. First, thank you for inviting us to Afghanistan. I have a question about something you said earlier. You said if national reconciliation occurs and if the war ends, then all Soviet troops will return home. Does that mean that the Soviet troops will remain in Afghanistan as long as the war continues?

[Najib] I have answered this question ten times now. I think our American friends are slow in understanding. Anyway I want to repeat once more that if the aggression and interference from outside ends, if the Geneva agreements are signed, and if national reconciliation ends in success and agreement, no soldier from the Soviet Union will remain in our country. They will all return to their peace-loving country.

[Moderator] The representative of the Cyprus Trade Union Federation says that recently in the Western countries talks are underway about Afghanistan. Please tell us about these subjects. He also says that he thinks your peaceful initiatives have not been reflected in the Western mass media as they should be. Please also give your opinion in this connection.

[Najib] We again request that you help us on all issues connected with the national reconciliation policy in the Western mass media as much as possible, and prepare the ground for its publication.

[Correspondent from the *Los Angeles Times* speaking in English, fading into Dari translation] [Name indistinct], from the *Los Angeles Times*. I would like to ask you sir, if your remarks about the rebels' or opposition's rejection of the cease-fire applies to the meeting yesterday in Peshawar. You are probably aware that they said they will continue fighting until all the Soviet troops have left the country. Could you give us a direct response on their meeting?

[Najib] My remarks apply to their ludicrous stand announced yesterday in Peshawar.

[Moderator] Ukolov, the *Pravda* correspondent in Kabul: Comrade Najib, I witnessed the first day of the announcement of the national reconciliation. The people of Kabul broadly celebrated this state announcement. Could you tell us if the policy of national reconciliation has been broadly supported in other provinces?

[Najib] You can see and hear all the events through our mass media, including radio and television. Every day facts and truths are being published in connection with the comprehensive support of the people.

But, I can say in a word that the question of peace and security is more tangible and sensitive for the people in the provinces, districts, subdistricts, and villages and they feel it very deeply.

[*The Washington Post* correspondent in English, fading into Dari translation] [Name indistinct], from *The Washington Post*. In one of your previous replies to a question, you said that the timetable for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan was decided a long time ago. Are the terms for the timetable fixed or are they the subject of negotiation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union?

[Najib] If I tell you that we agreed on this timetable a long time ago, could this question be considered not specific or unclear? You ask yourself.

[BBC correspondent in English, fading into Dari translation] Question from the BBC. Could you please tell us how, when, where, and in what ways the cease-fire has been violated by the rebels?

[Najib] We have examples. We have decided to inform our compatriots of all the specific examples of violations by the opposition via the mass media. You will be informed about them.

[Unidentified American newspaper correspondent in English, fading into Dari translation] Mr President. A question from the Moscow correspondent of the U.S. newspaper [name indistinct]. Many of my readers want to know why you changed your name from Najibullah to Najib?

[Najib] I have not made any change. It is the chameleon-like quality of your press that sometimes calls me Najib, sometimes Najibullah, sometimes Mohammad Najib, sometimes General Najib, and sometimes Dr Najib.

[Moderator] Thank you. PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Najib, it looks like the esteemed journalists, the dear guests, have asked all the questions that they wanted to ask, both in writing and verbally. Because they have no more questions it is obvious that they are satisfied. Thank you for answering all the questions with patience, firmness, and in a satisfying way.

[Najib] Very esteemed friends: We are at a busy and happy moment. We request that you deliver the truth to the people of the world, the truth about everything: the truth about peace and war, the truth of reaction and progress, the truth of development and growth and the backwardness of the Middle Ages, and even the frightening truth of the opposition to Islam.

This morning when I was coming to your conference they gave me the Holy Koran, the Holy Koran which was sent by Mawlawi Sayed Jalal, head of the provincial council of ulema and religious leaders of Badghis Province. The Holy Koran has been pierced with an enemy bullet as a result of an attack by the rebels on Mawlawi Sayed (?Balan). This is the defense by the counterrevolutionary elements, the extremists, and so-called supporters of Islam. This is the upside down jihad, the anti-Islam jihad. We hope you will deliver this fact to the world, that the war is not connected to Islam, to an infidel. It is the war of interests, the war of classes, the progressive and leading classes in the society against the reactionary classes, a war between those who have been sold and those who believe in their country.

All of our history, the history of politics, parties, and states has shown that in the final analysis, victory is for those who struggle in their country for peace, democracy, social progress, development, freedom, and the welfare and prosperity of human beings. This victory will welcome those who love their country, not those

who fight against it. Victory will welcome those who love their people, not fight against them; victory will welcome those who love Islam which is of the people of Afghanistan, not those who struggle against Islam and its Koran. This is fact. Express this fact for the people of the world. Thank you for your attention.

Gandhi Views Foreign Policy in News Conference

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[Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's press conference held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi —live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] On Sri Lanka, Mr Prime Minister, Some 2 months ago or 10 weeks ago at [the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit] in Bangalore, the situation seems to be showing up as a result of your discussions with Mr Jayewardene. Since then the situation has changed for the worst on the ground in Jaffna, some setback on the eastern districts. And today, Mr Jayewardene complained that he is not getting the desired assistance from India. What do you think has gone wrong and what is the outlook?

[Gandhi] Well, I am at [word indistinct] as you are. Because on the 19th December, I think it was 19th December, we got a package from the Sri Lankan Government, from the president actually, which I am told was typed in this town, his typewriter, in his house, and then handed to us. Then we were told 2 days later that there are some problems and the whole package cannot be adhered. So then we got back to him. Then we were told no, no, no there are no problems, it can be adhered to. Then again there were questions raised in Sri Lanka whether it can be done or not. The latest thing we have been told again has a little bit of question mark on it whether they are going to accept that or they are going to stand by it or they are not going to stand by it. We unfortunately can do nothing till we have a package which we know the Sri Lankan Government is going to stand by it. We cannot have a vascillating government and pretend that we will take this package to anyone or talk to anyone.

[Reporter] My question was on technology. Can I ask it?

[Gandhi] No, let us stick to the foreign policy.

[Reporter] Prime Minister, Rajen Sarin from *Tribune*, Chandigarh. Would you kindly sum up your views of the geostrategic situation developing in this region, particularly with reference to the efforts for a cease-fire in Afghanistan and the reported move to provide Stinger missles to the mujahidins fighting the Afghan Government.

[Gandhi] Well, to sum up the whole of geopolitical situation in Southeast [as heard] Asia will take me more than 4 minutes that we have got left. So I would like not to do half a job on that and, perhaps, on another occasion I will give you a full detail on that. On the specific question of Stinger missiles for Afghanistan, now we have brought it to the notice of the U.S. Government that a lot of the equipment that they are giving to Afghanistan is finding its way to our border. And, we felt that they must be much more careful about this.

[Announcer] 134, Mr Raghvan of *Blitz*.

[Raghvan] Prime Minister, between India and Pakistan we have been discussing for quite some years a friendship treaty. Now it appears the main hurdle to the finalization of the friendship treaty is Pakistan's objection to inserting a clause in the treaty proclaiming the inadmissibility of establishing foreign bases in each other's territory. You must have seen very recently a former foreign secretary has gone on record as saying that Pakistan's involvement with the military activities of the United States in his country have gone too far; it is meaningless to discuss this friendship treaty any more. Would you like to care to comment on this.

[Gandhi] No, we would like to discuss the friendship treaty if all the clauses are acceptable and one of the clauses as you said is that on foreign bases and we feel that if the security and stability is to be ensured in South Asia, then there should be no foreign bases or major power bases in South Asia, because it is with such bases that intervention, interference is heightened and tensions increased. But we would like to talk, we are talking with Pakistan. We have talked a lot with them. Sometimes the talks have been positive; sometimes not so positive. But on the ground we have seen very little progress and we are really watching it. We are willing to talk, we are willing, because that is the way to solve problems. If one breaks talks, then the solutions that are left [are] not happy solutions and we would like to have solutions across the table.

[Announcer] One hundred seventy-four, Mr Narendra Reddy.

[Reddy] What [words indistinct] the Chinese intrusion in Sumdorong Valley and what [do] you see [as] their intention by strongly reacting on our making Arunachal Pradesh a state?

[Gandhi] Well, that wasn't a reaction to the Chinese, it was a reaction to my visit to Arunachal Pradesh and it had been pending since that time. We have been in touch with the Chinese regarding the intrusion to Sumdorong Valley. We have made some progress in talks with them. These problems are very, very complicated, and they have to be solved by talking with each other. And we hope that we will be able to solve them by talking with the Chinese.

[Announcer] One hundred eighty-one, Mr Dua.

[Dua] S.K. Dua, *Hindustan Times*. Mr Prime Minister, seven rounds of talks have been held with the Chinese at official's level but they have not yielded any fruit, no progress on the boundary question. May I know whether your government is prepared to raise the question, raise the discussions to political level so that a high direction can be given to solving the border dispute with China?

[Gandhi] We are prepared to raise to a higher level. But before it can be raised to a higher level, a lot of ground work will have to be done.

[Announcer] Eight-two.

[Husaini] Mr Prime Minister, reports have appeared in Indian newspapers....

[Announcer, interrupting] Better to identify your name so that others will know.

[Husaini] My name is Zahir Husaini, I represent the Pakistani daily *Jang*. Sir, reports have appeared in Indian newspapers alleging concentration of Pakistani forces on Indo-Pak border. Could you tell us what is the exact situation on borders, and this is just a propaganda campaign against Pakistan? My other question, when are you visiting Pakistan and what is the exact state of progress made toward normalization of relations?

[Gandhi] Well, first on the border question. It is not a propaganda issue. Our information is that after Pakistan's exercise — you have an annual exercise, which you carry out every October-November — after that exercise, the Pakistani forces did not withdraw like they normally withdraw and they have remained at the frontline position, which has caused us tremendous concern. We have not reciprocated so as not to heighten the tension and create a situation which might snowball, and we are trying to figure out why Pakistan has left its forces on our border. We are trying to get in touch with Pakistan with others to see what is the problem. We ourselves are having an exercise, which we hold once in 3 years. And because we hold it less often, it is a more extensive exercise, more comprehensive exercise. But this should be no problem to Pakistan. We have been in touch with the Pakistan Government at the correct levels. We have informed them of the exercise, and there should be no cause for worry.

[Husaini] When you are visiting Paksitan?

[Gandhi] At the moment, I have got no fixed plans for visiting Pakistan.

[Husaini] [The Pakistani] foreign secretary said you will be visiting Pakistan as the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] chairman.

[Gandhi] He will talk with the new foreign secretary soon.

[Husaini] New foreign secretary?
[Announcer] Sixty-two.
[Reporter] Sorry, my question has been asked. I will pass that one.
[Announcer] I think we will really have to.
[Gandhi] I think we really have to have a last question. [laughter]
[Reporter] How many last questions?
[Gandhi] There seem to be too many last questions.
[announcer] Fifty-nine.
[Gandhi] Give it to someone who has not asked a question.
[Announcer] Yes, 59 has not yet.
[Unidentified reporter] Sir, in the light of ....
[Gandhi] Fifty-nine we agreed to.
[Ved Pratap Vedik in Hindi] I am from the PTI Hindi press service. Ved Pratap Vedik. Mr Prime Minister! Your government has welcomed the unilateral declaration of a cease-fire by Afghanistan. This could be a good thing. But it is surprising that, despite India's being a regional superpower in this region, we only welcome such events regarding Afghanistan or remain silent. We have not taken any initiative on this issue for the last 2 to 3 years. Four external affairs ministers have been appointed during your 2 years in power. How can a minister in only 6 months solve the Sri Lanka or Afghanistan problems? What are the reasons for your not holding direct talks with the Najib government or the Peshawar guerrillas or the Pakistani Government or the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union? Is it not surprising that while the American and Soviet leaders are holding talks in Islamabad, we are not taking any initiative in this connection? Do you have any intention to take any initiative ?

[Gandhi] No.

PTI Cited on Resignation of Foreign Secretary

BK201634 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 20 (AFP) — Indian Foreign Secretary Ayilam Panchapakesa Venkateswaran resigned Tuesday, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported. Mr Venkateswaran, 56, India's top Foreign Ministry official, quit within hours of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi hinting at a morning press conference that there would be "a new foreign secretary" soon.

The career diplomat, who took over as foreign secretary in April 1986, was not available for comment. His office refused to confirm the resignation reports.

The foreign secretary is the seniormost bureaucrat responsible for implementing India's foreign policy and functions under the guidance of the minister for external affairs. Mr Venkateswaran was present at Mr Gandhi's press conference but had refused to comment on the prime minister's remark, saying: "Let us find out."

He had held several diplomatic posts, including in Moscow and Washington, and was a former ambassador to China. Mr Venkateswaran is the second top bureaucrat to resign in a month. Mr Gopalaswami Parthasarthy, chairman of a Policy Advisory Committee attached to the External Affairs Ministry, quit in December amid reports that he was being sidelined by the prime minister on key issues.

Pakistan Said Mobilizing 'Hundreds' of Troops

BK181710 Hong Kong AFP in English 1702 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 18 (AFP) — Pakistan has mobilised hundreds of troops and more than 10,000 "offensive reserves" along the border with India, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Sunday. The news agency, quoting Indian defence analysts, said 14 of Pakistan's 17 deployable divisions had been positioned on the border, some of the units moving in from Peshawar and Quetta near Afghanistan. A spokesman for the Pakistani mission here refused to comment on the report.

Indian and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947 and routinely accuse each other of making offensive troop movements. A massive Indian military exercise in the northern state of Punjab late last year drew strong protests in Pakistan.

Soviet Official Welcomes Afghan Cease-Fire

BK160935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] The Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr V.F. Petrovskiy, has said that the Soviet troops will pull out of Afghanistan as

soon as outside interference in the affairs of that country comes to an end. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, he welcomed the cease-fire announced by the Afghan Government yesterday. Replying to a question, Mr Petrovskiy said that the Soviet Union is in favor of an international security system to be followed up with subsystems at regional level. He called for an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war.

Answering a question, Mr Petrovskiy pointed out that the Soviet Union favors international verification of nuclear weapons. He said both India and the Soviet Union are striving hard for nuclear disarmament and world peace.

About the setting up of International Space Center in India he said it will help the developing countries to take advantage of making peaceful uses of outer space. It will also train astronauts from developing nations.

Spokesman on 'Positive Developments'

BK161559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that India has always stood for a negotiated political settlement of the Afghan problem and has been supporting initiatives by the UN secretary general in this regard. Responding to queries, he said the Indian Government has noted the recent decision of the Afghan Government to initiate a process of national reconciliation and its announcement of unilateral cease-fire. He said we regard these steps as positive developments.

Gandhi, Punjab Chief Minister View Situation

BK161615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi this afternoon to discuss the situation in the state. Later, Mr Barnala had a meeting with the home minister, Mr Buta Singh; the minister for human resource development, Mr Narasimha Rao; and the communications minister, Mr Arjun Singh. Mr Barnala was accompanied by the Punjab finance minister, Mr Balwant Singh. A report received just now says that at the meeting between the Punjab chief minister and Mr Rajiv Gandhi and other central ministers in New Delhi today, the emphasis was on obtaining quick and substantial results in the fight against terrorist violence. The totality of measures including implementation of various items of the Punjab accord were also considered at the meeting. The discussion will be resumed after a few days.

Roundtable Conference for Punjab Solution Opens

BK181630 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] The first people's roundtable conference to find a solution to the Punjab began in Chandigarh today. Speakers at the conference urged the common people to play a greater role in solving the problem.

The Janata Party leader, Mr Chandra Shekhar, suggested that instead of politicians undertaking a peace march in Punjab under tight security, social and voluntary organizations should undertake such a peace march.

Organized by the Federation of Indian Exservicemen and the Punjab Nagaric [citizens] Sabha, the conference is being attended by leaders of various political and social organizations.

AFP: Security Forces Enter Golden Temple

BK180457 Hong Kong AFP in English 0452 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Jan 18 (AFP) — Indian security forces entered the Golden Temple in Amritsar to flush out Sikh militants using the holiest Sikh shrine as a sanctuary, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Sunday. Seventy-five people were rounded up during the "mini operation" which began shortly before midnight Saturday and lasted about two hours, PTI said in a despatch from the Punjab city quoting official sources. At least 25 of them were later released when they were found to be devotees or Sikh temple committee employees. [passage omitted]

Saturday night's operation came after a meeting Friday in New Delhi between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Barnala, who discussed measures to combat increasing Sikh militancy in the Punjab.Some 40 people have died in Sikh separatist violence in the state this year.

'Top Sikh Militants' Among Detained

BK180607 Hong Kong AFP in English 0604 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Chandigarh, India, Jan 18 (AFP) — Six top Sikh militants were among 60 people held during a two-hour "mini operation" at Amritsar's Golden Temple complex to flush out militants using the holiest Sikh shrine as a sanctuary, the Punjab police chief said here Sunday. They included Mohinder Singh Mollah, who was wanted for 10 murders committed during a single day in the troubled northern state, police director-general Julio Francis Ribeiro told *Agence France-Presse*.

The operation which began at 11 p.m. (1730 GMT) Saturday and lasted two hours "went off smoothly" and not a single shot was fired, Mr Ribeiro said. Three of the six top militants were found hiding inside a locked room at the resthouse attached to the Golden Temple, he said. The six were arrested and had been taken away for interrogation, he added. One revolver and two rifles were seized from them along with live ammunition, Mr Ribeiro said.

The 300 police and paramilitary troops involved in the operation did not, however, enter the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, he said. The combing operation was confined to the Sikh temple committee offices, and three resthouses for pilgrims, one of which also housed the offices of the militant all India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF).

The operation was ordered by the Sikh moderate government of Punjab after reports that the chieftain of the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), the sword-arm of the movement for secession, had been kidnapped and murdered inside the temple complex by rival militants, Mr Ribeiro said. Mr Ribeiro said the body of KCF Chief Satta had not been found but police suspected that it had been thrown into "a gutter" — the usual practice of warring militants to dispose of their victims. The police chief said the government had also received reports that Satta's close associate Sendi had been kidnapped and held hostage at the offices of the All India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF) in the temple complex. Some one dozen Sikh militants had died in the past year in internecine group warfare and their bodies were dumped in gutters, Mr Ribeiro said.

In the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, city Police Chief Mohammad Izhar-Alam said the antecedents of those detained in the operation would be verified and they would be let off if found innocent. [passage omitted]

District Congress-I Leader in Punjab Killed

BK171252 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] In Punjab, a Congress-I leader of Ferozepore District, Mr Kewal Singh, was shot dead by three gunmen near (Lumdiwala) Village this afternoon. The victim was on his way from Ferozepore to the village when he was attacked. The assassins escaped on a scooter snatched from a passerby at pistol-point.

'Terrorists' Kill Punjab Congress-I Leader

BK190749 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] A report just received says: In Punjab, a Congress-I leader and former minister, Mr Yogender Pal Pandey, was shot dead in Ludhiana this morning. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, he was shot dead at a petrol pump by two suspected terrorists traveling in a car.

'Indefinite Curfew' Imposed

BK190854 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] In Punjab, a Congress-I leader and former minister, Mr Yogender Pal Pandey, and his bodyguard were shot dead in Ludhiana this morning. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, they were shot dead at a petrol pump by some suspected terrorists travelling in a car.

The district magistrate, Ludhiana, later clamped an indefinite curfew in some parts of the city. The Punjab government has declared that its offices will remain closed for the day as a mark of respect to Mr Pandey.

In a condolence message, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said that Mr Yogender Pal Pandey was a symbol of Hindu-Sikh unity and had always upheld the ideal of brotherhood. The minister said the death of Mr Pandey at the hand of the assassins is a great loss.

Strike Called in Protest

BK200336 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] In Ludhiana, a bundh [strike] has been called today in protest against the killing of the Congress-I leader, Mr Yogender Pal Pandey. The local bar association observed a protest strike yesterday. They also decided to stop work today. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in his condolence message said that Mr Pandey's assassination has deprived Punjab of a dedicated leader.

In Punjab, suspected terrorists shot at and injured two persons in Jullundur last night.

14 Injured in Gurkha-Police Clash in West Bengal

BK171302 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] In West Bengal, 14 persons including 4 policemen were injured in a clash between GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] supporters and the police at Kalimpong yesterday. The clash occurred when a large number of GNLF supporters surrounded a police party which included the DIG [Deputy Inspector General] and the district magistrate when it was returning from a raid in (Chitri). Police resorted to lathi [baton] charge to disperse the attacking mob.

3 Killed in 'Clash;' Strike Observed

BK171603 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Excerpts] In West Bengal, three persons including two women were killed in a clash between GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] supporters and security men in Topkhana area in Kalimpong Subdivision yesterday. The security men had to open fire on the GNLF activists who attacked them with bombs and other deadly weapons. Speaking to newsmen in Calcutta today, the state home secretary, Mr Krishnamurthy, said the GNLF supporters put up road blockades in the area, protesting against the arrest of their followers yesterday. [passage omitted]

A partial bundh [strike] was observed in Kalimpong today. The situation is reported to be tense but under control.

West Bengal Chief on Talks With Gurkha Militants

BK190342 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister says talks with GNLF leaders could be held only if they agree to stop violence, anti-national activities, and give up the demand for a separate Gurkhaland. Speaking to newsmen at Calcutta airport last evening, Mr Jyoti Basu ruled out any talks with the GNLF if they do not agree

even on one of these points. Replying to a question on the withdrawal of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] from Darjeeling as demanded by the GNLF, Mr Basu said it will be considered only if the front withdraws its proposed Anti-Bengal day [in January] and violent activities. Mr Basu also said that his government is trying to tackle the situation in Darjeeling politicaly and administratively. He said his goverment does not need any antiterrorist act. The present laws are sufficient to tackle the situation.

The union minister of state and West P[illegible]h [state] Congress-I president, Mr Das Munsh[illegible]ed to the GNLF leaders to withdraw the Gurkhaland movement and try to find a solution instead of going in for a confrontation with the state government.

Meanwhile, a UNI *[United News of India]* report from Darjeeling said the militants of the GNLF ambushed a BSF [Border Security Force] patrol party at (Gurubathan) under the Kalimpong Subdivision yesterday. The agency quoting police said there were no casualties on either side. These attackers of the GNLF were later arrested near the spot with bombs and pipeguns. Police have also rounded up 19 GNLF activists from Kalimpong in connection with Saturday's [17 January] attacks on a convoy. a large number of arms and explosives have been recovered during raids in various areas of Kalimpong town.

Ziaul Haq on Afghanistan, Iran, ICO Summit

BK171559 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq says that Pakistan has always sought a peaceful political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Speaking to newsmen in Rawalpindi today, he said Pakistan will persevere in its efforts to resolve this problem through the UN-sponsored indirect Geneva talks and that the entire world should support these efforts. About the new initiatives taken by the Soviet Union, the president said these reflect the success of Pakistan's principled foreign policy on Afghanistan.

Answering a question, the president expressed confidence that Iran will review its stand on its participation in the forthcoming Islamic summit conference in Kuwait, which will not only strengthen the unity of the Islamic community but also help in the discussion on the extremely tragic war between two fraternal Islamic nations. At its last meeting in Jeddah, the Islamic community peace committee urged Iran and Iraq to adopt the path of peace and reconciliation. The sooner the war ends the better, the president observed. [passage omitted]

Junejo Says Law, Order To Return to Karachi

BK161735 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said that all appropriate steps will be taken to restore law and order in Karachi and solve the city's problems. He was addressing a meeting of elected representatives in Karachi today.

The meeting was attended by parliament members from all four provinces accompanying the prime minister and Sind assembly members. The prime minister said that he is fully confident that the patriotic people of Karachi will rid their city of the present situation and will surely rise to the occasion and will unitedly resolve the problems in the best interests of the nation.

Earlier, the prime minister met with the chiefs of the provincial administration and law enforcement agencies and assessed the situation in the city.

Announces Relief for Victims

BK171658 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] The prime minister has announced a grant of 100 million rupees for the relief and rehabilitation of the people affected in recent disturbances in Karachi. This will be in addition to the 22.5 million rupees allocated by the provincial government for this purpose. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo told editors of national dailies, who met him in Karachi this evening, that a comprehensive program has been chalked out for providing relief to the affected people. Relief measures would include reconstruction of the houses damaged and provision of employment to the family members of those who lost their lives in the disturbances.

Earlier, addressing separate meetings of notables and ulema [scholars], the prime minister said the immediate objective of the government is urgent and adequate dispensation of relief to the people affected by recent disturbances in Karachi. Specific measures are also to be taken to prevent recurrence of violent incidents and effective reorganization of the administrative structure of the city to bring it in tune with the changed requirements. He said he has found consensus on these measures during his meetings in Karachi. He said a committee has already been appointed to evaluate the organizatonal setup of the administration and to submit its report and recommendations within 2 weeks.

About the provision of relief to the affected people, the prime minister said this objective would be achieved through the newly appointed relief commissioner. He will be entrusted with the job of reconstruction of houses and property through a consortium of builders. The job will be completed in the next few weeks.

He said the acts of violence by saboteurs in Karachi have created a sense of insecurity. He had no doubt that the general public understood that subversive activities were perpetrated by terrorists within and outside the country. The prime minister underlined the role of ulema in cooling the passions and bringing peace and harmony among different sections of the people. He appealed to the members of parliament accompanying him to join hands with their colleagues in Karachi to bring different communities together. The federal ministers belonging to other provinces will extend their stay in Karachi and visit various localities of the city, listen to the problems of the people, and ensure their solutions through the provincial government.

Earlier, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo held a meeting with the federal ministers and members of parliament from the four provinces who have accompanied him to review the present law-and-order situation in Karachi and related matters. The Sind governor and chief ministers of Sind and the Punjab were also present. A delegation of industrialists also called on the prime minister.

Urges Formation of 'Peace Committees'

BK181537 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said the government is determined to deal firmly with the situation in Hyderabad and Karachi and maintain law and order. Addressing councillors of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation this afternoon, he directed that peace committees be constituted to promote understanding and brotherhood among the people. He said some organized groups are involved in the disturbances in Karachi and Hyderabad and are trying to create disorder and chaos among the people of these cities. These groups include elements who are being used to create a situation of disruption and hatred among the people in order to create difficulties for the elected government. He said the biggest challenge before the government is to consolidate the democratic institutions.

Referring to unemployment and slum dwellers problems, the prime minister said efforts are underway to solve them. He

stressed upon the elected representatives the need to identify these problems so that a strategy can be chalked out to solve them.

The Sind chief minister, Syed Ghas Ali Shah, who also spoke on the occasion, called upon the people to be aware of elements who are working against the national integrity. He said if any injustice has been done to a section of society, then it will be remedied.

Earlier, the prime minister addressed a large gathering of the representatives from various walks of life from Karachi. He assured the people that the government is giving priority to restoring law and order and protection of life, property, and honor of the people and is using is all its resources for the purpose.

Delhi Reports Violence Continuing 17 Jan

BK170302 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0140 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] In Pakistan, ethnic violence continued for the fifth day yesterday in Karachi with more reports of clashes and arson. At least 30 shops in the main market Liaqatabad in the city were set on fire by mobs. Arsonists also violated curfew in several areas as the Urdu-speaking Muhajirs continued to vent their anger on the Pathans. At least six districts of Karachi and parts of Hyderabad have been brought under curfew.

Karachi Reports Curfew Relaxations

BK171539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GTM 17 Jan 87

[Text] The Karachi administration has announced that the curfew will be lifted in Landhi and Korangi areas from tomorrow morning, while it will be relaxed from 0600-1000 and again from 1430-1700 in Shah Faisal Colony and New Karachi areas. In Liaqatabad the curfew relaxations will be from 0800-0900 and again from 1600-1700.

According to a notification issued by the local administration, the situation in all curfew-bound areas remained normal today. In Liaqatabad, three persons were arrested for violating curfew restrictions. Meanwhile, the curfew was relaxed in Hyderabad and Latifabad from 0700-1000 this morning.

Opposition Politician Killed 18 Jan

BK180327 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] A left wing Pakistani politician, Mr Fazil Rahu, was murdered yesterday by some unidentified persons near his home town in the southern province of Sind. Mr Rahu, 50, was the vice president of the Awami National Party, one of the 9 parties of the movement for the Restoration of Democracy. He was in jail for more than 5 years for his speeches against the military regime of General Zia and was released only last year.

Violence continued unabated in Karachi for the 7th day yesterday. Police opened fire on a mob in Malir District where more than 400 rioters had put up barricades. They were displaying antigovernment and antipolice banners. Seven people were wounded in the firing. Reports say that the death toll in the rioting has gone up to 14 with two persons succumbing to injury.

21 Jan Curfew Liftings

BK210227 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Curfew has been lifted in New Karachi from 0600 [0100 GMT] this morning. Curfew will be relaxed in Liaquatabad from 0700-1700 today. Curfew has also been lifted from Hyderabad and Latifabad from 0600 this morning.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Urges Support Against 'Terrorists'

BK191621 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1508 GMT 19 Jan 86

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 19 (LANKA PUVATH) — Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene addressing a largely attended meeting at Thinipitiya in Madampe after he unveiled the Pinnacle of the 'Chaitya of the Thinipitiya Viharaya on Saturday said that many of the earlier speakers had stated that he had a family connection with that area as his grandfather's grandfather was the first mudaliyar appointed to the Chilaw District by the British Government in 1915.

Most of those relatives of that generation owned property and lived and worked in Madampe, Marawila, and Chilaw areas.

His branch of the family went to reside in Colombo but they used to frequently visit the areas as they had relatives there and owned property. A big extent of land, Mudukatuwa Estate, which they owned was gifted by the British Government to the first Mudaliyar, Don Adrian.

This temple has a very important and ancient history from the Duth period, he was therefore happy to be able to have come there and participated in the religious ceremonies.

As head of the government, occasions like this gave him the opportunity not only to take part in the religious ceremonies but also to explain to the large crowds that gather the activities of this government. Our main intention is to firstly develop the backward areas of this country.

The president said: "You have got an energetic and young member of parliament (MP). He is a son of the late G. C. S. Corea, who had done a lot for this area. Mr Corea has worked with me. I have with me a booklet listing the sums of money which have been spent for the several development works in the area".

The president said that they heard from Mr Hurulle details of the work this government was doing to foster Buddhism. He would like to speak a few words of something about which they read and hear over the newspapers, radio and TV — namely the violence and terrorist activities in the north and east.

"We are trying our best to stop this movement but it has to be remembered that this is like a plague not confined to Sri Lanka but spread throughout the world in recent times. It is surprising that Sri Lanka escaped this epidemic for so long. But we should remember that not only the violent activities of today in the north and east but the insurgency by the JVP [Peoples Liberation Front] in 1971 was a part of these activities.

This time it has come in another form. At that time the leaders were Sinhalese, those who were killed were Sinhalese, the property that was destroyed belonged to the Sinhalese.

But there is no difference between terrorism which existed then and which exists now. Their policy was to kill people, to wage war, to destroy property, to destroy the government and civilised society. They were Sinhalese, Tamils, or Muslims. "If we think like that of the troubles that exist today we can take steps to eradicate this menace", he said.

The president said as he had stated earlier this terrorism was existing not only in the north and east but other parts of the world.

In England due to the movement in Ireland which has existed for over 70 years, one cannot say at what moment a bomb will explode in London or North Ireland.

It was the same in America. Several bombs had exploded in Paris, the capital of France during last year and hundreds died as a result. In India, due to it being a vast country, such troubles arise in the various areas — Punjab, Kashmir, Goa, Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, etc.

It exists in the east too — Malaysia, Burma, Indonesia. Therefore, this is not confined to Sri Lanka alone. Still, nobody has been able to find the reason why people act like this — whether they are mad or sick — but terrorists are not people who act in a civilised or humane way.

It is about 10 or 15 years since this movement started in Sri Lanka. It started during the previous governments. The world is inclined to favour Tamil terrorists when they claim that the majority race was trampling the minorities. If Tamils are arrested or a case is filed against Tamils, the world thinks they are being harassed by the majority.

It is under cover of this campaign that the terrorists are acting today. Therefore, if the government intends stopping terrorism it has to be done carefully without inviting the anger of the world.

During the 1971 insurrection, the previous government killed thousands of Sinhalese youth. The world did not say a word that this was wrong. The UNP [United National P-rty] was in the opposition. They asked why are thousands being killed, why are their dead bodies floating in the Kelani River, but nobody in the world got up and said it was wrong. If a Tamil was killed, the world and India shouted that the majority community and its government were trampling the Tamils. That was one of the difficulties this government was facing in stopping this movement.

In Tamil Nadu there are 50 million Tamils. They think of the Sri Lankan Tamils as their own. The Indian Government hesitates to act if the Tamil Nadu government is opposed.

The Tamil Nadu government, though supporting the Indian Government, has its independence to a large extent. The police there were under the provincial government of Tamil Nadu and not under the central government. That was why the terrorist leaders from the north are living in Tamil Nadu. It is there that they get trained in military activitiy, receive arms, and it is from there that they come secretly in boats to Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Government is trying its best to stop this: It has brought

these matters to the notice of the Indian Government but the desired assistance was not forthcoming.

As the terrorist movement is a violent movement we too have to use weapons of war and make efforts to defeat this movement. Non-violent action alone would not help to stop this. They were all aware that there was a war like situation in the north.

The Tamils claimed that 70 percent of them lived in the north but they had no powers — that their language was elminated, their rights to enter the university were denied them, the right to serve as public servants proportionately has been denied to them, they were not being given land, and that therefore, they should be helped to have a say in the administration of their areas.

The government has accepted this by decentralising the administration without breaking the unitary nature of the Constitution. This was not something new. This decentralisation had existed for the last 125 years with municipal councils administering the affairs of their own areas. There were also urban councils, village councils. Then there were district development councils and now it is intended to have Pradeseeya Sabhas. All this is decentralisation where representatives to these bodies are elected by the vote of the people of each area.

This is what Tamils are asking. Firstly they asked for Eelam, a separate government. This idea has been given up. That will never be achieved.

The president said that steps had been taken to give the people living in the nine provinces including the Tamils in the north and east the opportunity to administer their affairs through the provincial councils system. He saw nothing wrong in that.

This has been discussed from the time of the late Mr D.S. Senanayake, Mr S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, and Mr Dudley Senanayake but not implemented. This government has undertaken to do so. If the terrorists are not accepting this what do they want?

The Government of India was making all efforts to help bring a peaceful settlement by advising the terrorists to stop their violence and have discussions with the government.

He hoped it would be possible to stop killings and destruction soon.

The president reiterated that the government's main effort is to stop this movement. The support of the people was extremely essential for this.

Nobody else could stop this except the government. It is the government which has the wherewithal to stop this — the army, the weapons, the power, etc.

If the people want to change the government they can do so but till the elections come it is their duty to support the elected government in the measures the government was taking. It is only the president and the members of the government who could decide on the course of action to stop this war. Others could only give advice and assist the government. One could criticise the government but it was essential that they give all support to the government and its actions against the terrorists.

When England waged war against Germany, America against Japan, it was the elected governments, presidents, and prime ministers who were directing these wars. Similarly in this country. He was not a dictator. He was not a ruler who fell from the skies.

He did not become president by virtue of belonging to a family but by the votes of the people. As long as he and his government enjoyed this power given by the people, in these difficult times only the government has the power to settle this problem politically, militarily, and by discussion. Therefore, give your fullest support towards achieving a successful solution.

LTTE Postpones Civil Administration, Talks

BK170450 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 16 Jan 87

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] have announced that they are not going to have direct administration in Jaffna for the time being; and at the same time they are not ready to hold direct peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government. An important LTTE member from Jaffna has said that the LTTE is not ready for direct talks with the Sri Lankan Government — they still would like to have the mediation of India as they do not have any faith in the Sri Lankan Government. The Sri Lankan Government cannot make the LTTE participate in the talks by embargoing the fuel supply [to Jaffna]. He categorically denied reports that LTTE is preparing for talks with the government as well as for a cease-fire. He announced that the plan to open an office to coordinate government affairs and to take up civil administration has been postponed indefinitely.

The LTTE has opened public liaison offices in nine villages on Jaffna peninsula. They have also set up 116 village courts, licenced restaurants, and cooperative stores. Taxes have also been assessed on the people for the 12 months commencing 4 January. The LTTE member from Jaffna has also said that the fuel embargo has forced the postponement of the plan to (?appoint their traffic police).

LTTE Warns of Retaliation Over Fuel Ban

BK180833 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] The most prominent of the Tamil guerrilla groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, announced yesterday that they are going to launch attacks on economic installations in Sri Lanka if the Sri Lankan Government does not lift the ban on the transport of fuel to Jaffna. The LTTE Jaffna commander, Kittu, alias Sathasivam Krishnakumar, gave this warning after the arrest of two persons attempting to attack the oil refinery at (Kolanavai) in Colombo. Kittu told newsmen that the LTTE was not involved in this attempt. He added, however, that they will not hesitate to launch attacks on economic installations in the south as a retaliatory measure if the oil embargo is not lifted. Kittu also said the checking of trucks by soldiers at (Anayiravu)

checkpoint delays the arrival of food in Jaffna and spoils perishables. He said that if the government completely stops the food distribution, he does not believe India will remain a silent spectator.

Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday that the government is aware of the fact that innocent people are being affected by the fuel ban, but it is taking this course instead of resorting to military action. He urged the LTTE to give up plans to run the civil administration and to come to the table for talks.

Jaffna Buses Reportedly Supplied With Fuel
BK170424 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Fuel is being supplied to all the buses operating in Jaffna from the bus depots in Vavuniya. It is reported that there will not be any shortage of fuel to the Jaffna District buses as there is adequate supply of fuel in the Vavuniya bus depots.

6 'Militants' Killed in Jaffna Clashes
BK180917 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 6 Tamil militants were killed and 11 injured in daylong battle between security forces and militants yesterday at Elephant Pass in Jaffna peninsula. A government communique stated that the fighting broke out when the militants fired at a supply helicopter about to land at the security forces camp.

Sources from Jaffna told our Colombo correspondent that security forces shelled militant bunkers killing six militants. The sources also said that in the battle that followed eight soldiers were also killed. However, a government communique has said that only one officer received minor injuries in the operation.

Transport to and from the peninsula has got disrupted since yesterday because of these incidents.

Further Details
BK181148 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] The Media Center reported today that terrorists fired rocket propelled guns at a supply helicopter which came in to land at Elephant Pass security forces camp yesterday. The terrorists were hiding in an island north of the camp. While the helicopter took the evasive action, two security force patrols crossed the lagoons surreptitiously and attacked the terrorists bunkers and destroyed them. The island was completely cleared of all terrorists.

The Media Center said that one officer received minor injuries during the operation. Six terrorists, identified as trained in Tamil Nadu, were killed. Identification tags found in them established that the dead terrorists belonged to the LTTE group. The tags had their training batch numbers from Tamil Nadu. Eleven other terrorists were injured, three of them seriously. Among the seriously injured were the local leaders, (Indaran Mahasev) and (Kovilan). Three bunkers and a house occupied by the LTTE leaders were destroyed by the security force patrols. The helicopter landed at the base safely.

Prior to the counterattack, over 100 civilians were moved to safety by another security force patrol. The security forces commander was told that Prabhakaran [LTTE leader] was in the area during the operation. The forces recoverd one rocket propelled gun, mortars, rifles, and ammunition from the scene.

Unknown Group Threatens To Disrupt ICO Summit

LD211016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] An unidentified person telephoned the AFP office in Paris introducing himself as a representative of the so far unknown group named Arab Combatants. He theatened that he will kill participants in the Islamic summit which is due to start in Kuwait next week. On the basis of this report, a representative of a group calling itself The Committee for the Defense of Arab Prisoners in Kuwait said: If Kuwait refuses to release 17 Arabs imprisoned in that country, they will blow up the summit venue.

It is pointed out that so far four Arab struggling groups have theatened to disrupt the Kuwait summit. These groups include: the Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Revolution Movement, and the Organization of Islamic Justice. The man making the phone call added: Our first action will be an explosion before the start of the summit.

We remind our listeners that 2 nights ago, three explosions occured simultaneously in Kuwait's oil installations.

U.S. Warship 'Secretly' Docked at Kuwaiti Port

LD201750 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20, IRNA — A U.S. warship has secretly anchored at the Kuwaiti port of Al-Shu'aybah since last week, according to reports received here. The Central News Bureau (CNB) quoting diplomatic sources in Kuwait disclosed Monday that a U.S. warship secretly arrived at the port, and that the Kuwaiti Government had ordered the Shaykhdom's mass media not to report the incident.

The sources requesting amonymity said Kuwait fears that publishing of these news will jeopardize the upcoming summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), in this Persian Gulf Shaykhdom. Observers believe the latest incident to be the best proof of Kuwait's inability to maintain necessary security for the OIC summit.

CNB said that none of the U.S. Marines have yet left the war-ship except for her commander who attended a dinner banquet hosted by the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait on January 5, coinciding with the arrival there of a U.S. senator. Ambassadors of NATO countries to Kuwait and several high ranking Kuwait officials were also present at the banquet.

Meanwhile, Richard Murphy, special envoy of the U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz, is scheduled to visit Kuwait soon.

Foreign Ministry Statement Issued on ICO Summit

LD191832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] In connection with the recent and distorted developments regarding the Islamic Conference Organization, the following statement was issued by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the basis of repeated warnings and reminders of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the convening of the ICO conference session, for numerous reasons, especially the following, Kuwait lacks the necessary quality and suitability for hosting that session:

1. Kuwait is unqualified due to her continuous support for the Iraqi regime in the course of the imposed war. This is completely contrary to the constitution of the ICO and the principle that requires that the chairman of the ICO conference be impartial;

2. The proximity of Kuwait to the southern battlefronts of the imposed war, which are among the most active fronts in crushing the Zionist Iraqi aggressors, would preclude the calm necessary for the adoption of effective and principled solutions concerning the difficulties facing the world of Islam;

3. In view of plentiful historical evidence, Kuwait is not capable of providing for the security of the summit conference. That country has repeatedly been the scene of Iraqi terrorist activities;

4. While the presence of the U.S. fleet in Kuwaiti ports proves Kuwait's inability to provide security, at the same time the U.S. fleet is a new factor that increases security risks.

While recent developments on the southern fronts clearly proved the correctness of the Islamic Republic's warnings, some countries are trying to insist on convening the conference even at the expense of endangering Islamic unity in that organization, due to the following reasons:

a. The attempts of the governments which favor compromise with the Zionist regime to readmit the Egyptian regime as the implement of the Camp David accord, and to prevent the intense reaction of Muslim nations against the recent meeting of Shah Hassan [Morocco's King Hassan] with the prime minister of the Zionist regime;

b. To support the aggressive stance of the Iraqi regime in order to save politically that regime, whose foundations have been utterly shaken recently as the result of the successful attacks of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

c. To prevent the measures of the ICO for satisfying the real needs of the naiton, and consequently, to satisfy the desire of the superpowers for weakening the political, cultural, and economic integration of the Islamic world.

Once again, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran warns about Kuwait's unsuitability for hosting the Islamic conference, and about that country's inability to provide for the security of the conference. The Foreign Ministry announces that the holding of a weak and defeated conference would result in disappointment for the nation and for the unity of Islamic countries; and that Kuwait and the countries which insist on the holding of the conference in that country will be held directly responsible for its consequences.

Muslims Rally Against DRA Cease-Fire Plan

LD202029 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Following the proclamation of a cease-fire and the issuance of a national reconciliation plan by the Kabul regime, a large rally was organized by Afghan parties and Islamic organizations residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in which a large number of Muslim revolutionaries and Afghan immigrants took part in Mashhad's Gowharshad mosque yesterday afternoon. The rally termed the cease-fire proclaimed by the Afghan ruling regime as a plot hatched by the enemies against that country's Muslims. It was declared that it was the inalienable right of the Muslim people of Afghanistan to continue their armed jihad to achieve an Islamic government.

Karbala' Operations 'New Chapter' in Offensives

NC201552 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "The Islamic Fighters' Power To Destroy the Iraqi Regime's War Machinery"]

[Excerpts] With the Karbala' operations in full swing this month, including Karbala'-4 and Karbala'-5 in the southern sector and the Karbala'-6 operations in the western sector, a new chapter has been successfully written in our widespread offensive operations, designed to strike at and dismember the Iraqi Ba'thist forces. These large-scale operations, which were planned early this year to pave the way for even more decisive operations, are complicated and require great expertise. They come in the wake of the Val-Fajr series of operations, the last of which, Val-Fajr-8, culminated in the liberation of the strategic port of Al-Faw. Both political leaders and the Islamic Republic's military commanders decided that following the Al-Faw operations, which cut the Iraqi regime's access to the warm waters of the Persian Gulf, they would launch an extensive series of offensives and infiltration operations along the fronts to set the stage for the initiation of decisive operations, at the right moment, involving total mobilization.

It was with this idea in mind that the Karbala' and Fath operations, which have been successful in causing disarray among the Ba'thist Iraqi regime's forces, were carried out this year. The vulnerability of the Ba'thist forces has been demonstrated in these operations, and has created serious problems for the Iraqi regime insofar as replacing its troops is concerned. Most of the commando forces were destroyed, completely wiped out, in the Karbala'-6 operations in Al-Mehran and in the Karbala'-4 and Karbala'-5 operations in the northeastern part of Basra. Hundreds of high-level officers were captured in the operations northeast of Basra, including colonels and brigadier generals. The resulting deterioration in the Iraqi regime's war planning and command capability on the fronts, with its accompanying confusion, is readily apparent. [passage omitted]

The immense losses among the Iraqi forces in the Karbala'-4 and Karbala'-5 operations in eastern Basra and the destruction of the sophisticated weaponry supplied by both East and West in the sensitive and strategic Shalamcheh region are facts that the Iraqi regime cannot hide. Further, given the increasing problems in Iraq itself, it cannot do much to rectify the situation. News agencies have mentioned of late that citizens who are almost 50 years of age are being called up for military service. [passage omitted] The great losses incurred by the Ba'thist forces and the destruction of military equipment and weaponry this year — including the downing of more than 100 aircraft, the loss of more than 2,000 tanks and APC's, and the death of more than 50,000 troops from the elite Iraqi Armed Forces — have created a grave crisis for the Ba'thist regime. In addition, the destruction of oil and economic installations in both northern and southern Iraq are worth mentioning. [passage omitted]

Unable to face our combatants directly on the fronts, the Iraqi regime has openly perpetrated heinous atrocities in its air attacks on our cities, particularly the holy city of Qom. The question that is still unanswered, in light of Iraq's deliberate trampling of international rules of conduct and its brazen use of chemical weapons; its attacks on passenger airliners and on holy shrines in Qom, which are held in esteem by Muslim communities throughout the world; and its destruction of cultural sites in Esfahan, is this: Does the international community have any excuse for remaining silent? International organizations, led by the United Nations, have undertaken no positive action or constructive measures to prevent Iraq from continuing its aggressive actions; on the contrary, they talk of peace. In so doing, they permit the criminals to perpetrate even worse crimes, with their assistance. As a result, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no choice but to punish the aggressor on its own and to save the people of the region from the scourge of this criminal element.

Combat Operations, Karbala-5, -6 Continue

Bakhtaran, Tabriz, Saqqez Bombed

LD191654 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, intruding planes of the Iraqi Zionist regime savagely attacked several residential districts of Bakhtaran at 1530 today. Iraqi planes also bombed several residential districts of Saqqez at 1455 today, which martyred and wounded a group of our compatriots and destroyed several residential units in this city. The city of Eslamabad was also attacked by Iraqi planes this afternoon and several of its districts were bombed. In the course of this bombing, a group of the inhabitants were either martyred or wounded and several residential units were destroyed. The city of Tabriz was also attacked this afternoon by planes of the Iraqi Zionist regime.

Iraqi Casualties Exceed 30,000

LD191836 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 19, IRNA — Iraqi casualties [in] the ongoing Karbala-5 offensive now exceed 30,000 which figure included those killed and wounded in the third stage of the offensive launched Sunday night.

A total of 2,150 Iraqi POW's have so far been evacuated behind the frontlines, while Iranian Muslim combatants maintain full superiority over enemy forces and are consolidating their positions in southern Iraq.

Iranian combatants destroyed several Iraqi and personnel carriers during the third stage of the offensive, killing or wounding hundreds of enemy soldiers and capturing a group of others.

Bombing of Civilian Areas Viewed

LD191911 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., Jan 19, IRNA — Scores of Iranian civilians were martyred and wounded and many houses destroyed when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas of some Iranian cities on Monday.

Iraqi war planes bombed residential areas of the city of Tabriz, east Azarbayjan at 12:15 hours local time (08:45 GMT) Monday during which some eight civilians were martyred and 51 others injured. Also some residential units were destroyed and damaged.

Meanwhile, 18 civilians were martyred and 75 others wounded when Iraqi planes bombarded Saqqez, Kordestan Province, at 15:05 (11:35 GMT) Monday. Some houses were destroyed and damaged in the raid.

In another development houses in Ilam, Bakhtaran, and Eslamabad were bombed by Iraqi warplanes Monday afternoon, martyring and injuring a group of innocent civilians, as well as destroying and damaging some residential units. No report is yet available on the exact casualty figures.

The air space of Qom, Esfahan, Hamadan, and Sardasht were also violated by the enemy war planes on Monday but Iraqi warplanes were soon repelled by Iran's anti-aircraft fire.

Iraqis Bomb Esfahan Areas 20 Jan

NC200534 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Residential areas in Esfahan were the target of aerial attacks by the Zionist Iraqi regime's mercenaries early this morning. The attack, which took place at 0619 hours [0249 GMT], damaged some residences and injured eight people. The red alert heard in Tehran this morning was due to the violation of Esfahan's airspace by the 'Aflaqi regime's mercenaries.

IRGC Fires Missile at Baghdad

LD200526 Tehran IRNA in English 0523 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20, IRNA — An Iranian surface-to-surface missile was fired at the Baghdad headquarters of the Iraqi Ba'th Party early Tuesday morning, in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks on residential areas of Iranian cities.

The central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), in a statement issued here Tuesday said that the missile was fired at 03:55 hours local time (00:25 hours GMT).

The missile unit of the IRGC, said the statement, fired the missile in retaliation for repeated Iraqi attacks on civilian areas of Iran. The statement added that the missile unit of the IRGC along with other combatants will crush the Iraqi enemy and will take revenge of the blood of the innocent Iranians from the Baghdad rulers.

Communique Issued on Attack

NC200543 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0320 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] The Ba'th Party headquarters in Baghdad was hit this morning by a missile launched by the Islamic combatants. According to a Central News Unit report, the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps [IRGC] has issued a communique which states:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O combatant nation! O resistant nation! The criminal rulers of Baghdad, whose hands are stained with the blood of our dear compatriots, have once again received a response to their bestiality. Missile units of the IRGC attacked the Ba'th Party headquarters in Baghdad with a surface-to-surface missile at 0355 hours [0025 GMT] this morning. The missile units of the IRGC Air Force, along with all Islamic combatants, declare their firm determination to crush the Ba'thist-Zionist mercenaries and avenge the blood of our cities' innocent civilians shed at the hands of the criminal rulers of Baghdad.

Iraqi Planes Violate Airspace

LD200553 Tehran IRNA in English 0544 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20, IRNA — Iraqi war planes violated air space of five Iranian cities Tuesday morning and in all the cities with the exception of the central city of Esfahan, they were intercepted.

In Esfahan several homes were damaged and eight civilians were injured, six of whom received outpatient treatment.

The air space of the west Azerbayjan capital city of Tabriz, Arak, Kashan, and the holy city of Qom in central Iran, was violated Tuesday morning. The invading planes were intercepted by the heavy anti-aircraft fire of Iran and the planes fled while breaking sound barriers in Arak, Kashan, and Qom. The red alert siren that went off in Tehran Tuesday morning was due to these violations.

Another Iraqi attempt Monday evening to raid Tabriz failed and the intruding planes fled due to heavy anti-aircraft fire.

Iraqi air raid on residential areas of the ancient city of Esfahan Monday night injured five civilians and damaged several homes and shops.

Meanwhile, in Tuesday afternoon bombardment of Bakhtaran, western Iran, six civilians were matryred and 12 others injured. Several homes and the Jame' mosque of the city are reported to have been damaged.

46th Iraqi Jet Downed Since 9 Jan
LD181543 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 18, IRNA — Another Iraqi warplane attempting to raid Iranian positions in the Karbala-5 operational theater in Shalamcheh region Sunday was shot down by anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim combatants. This brings to 46 the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the start of the Iranian Karbala-5 operations January 9.

47th Iraqi Plane Downed
LD200557 Tehran IRNA in English 0555 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala-5 Operational Region, Jan 20 IRNA — An Iraqi fighter was shot down by the Muslim combatants of Iran in the Karbala-5 operational region, Monday evening.

The fighter crashed in the theater bringing the total number of planes downed since [the] start of the operation Jan 9, to 47. It is unlikely that the pilot has survived.

Firing Explodes Basra Gas Tanks
LD200615 Tehran IRNA in English 0611 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala'-5 Operational Region, Jan 20, IRNA — Several gas storage tanks of Basra petrochemical complex exploded due to heavy fire of the Muslim forces of Iran Monday evening, sending off poisonous gas to the area.

The Muslim combatants of Iran stationed in Karbala-5 operational theater had to wear masks and anti-chemical garments to protect themselves against the toxic chemicals. However, some 50 of the Muslim forces of Iran including those in the Iraqi island of Umm at Tawaylah were afflicted. They were immediately transferred behind war fronts for treatment. The explosion of the tanks is reported to have affected a large group of Iraqi troops in the region.

The Iranian forces are now reported firmly stationed 400 meters east of the Basra petrochemical complex and are checking all enemy movements.

Forces Continue To Advance
LD200855 Tehran IRNA in English 0851 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala'-5 Operational Region, Jan 20, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran achieved new victories in the continuation of the ongoing victorious Karbala'-5 operations, Monday night.

Muslim combatants, stationed one kilometer west of Jasim River in the operational region, clashed with Iraqi forces, inflicting heavy losses on them. Iranian forces then continued their advance in the area.

Hundreds of enemy troops were killed or wounded and their munitions sustained heavy damage in the Monday night fighting which lasted till Tuesday morning.

Iraqis Attacked on Jasim River Axes
LD201023 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem-ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan. 20, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran in continuation of the third stage of the ongoing victorious Karbala'-5 operation attacked Iraqi troops in two axes on the other side of Jasim River, inflicting heavy casualties on them. Heavy fighting is still continuing and Muslim combatants of Iran are advancing west and north of the river.

In fierce fighting Monday night and Tuesday morning, Muslim forces of Iran seized 15 Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers and destroyed tens of others.

Over 1,000 Iraqis Killed 19-20 Jan
LD201036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1022 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, based on latest reports from the operational theater in the east of Basra, continuing the "Karbala' 5" operation, the combatants of Islam attacked the Zionist enemy on two axes, inflicting heavy losses and casualties and capturing dozens of enemy troops. They are being transferred behind the lines. During the attack, last night and this morning, the forces of Islam, have so far killed or injured more than 1,000 Iraqi troops.

Pilots Fly 5 Separate Sorties
LD201007 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0958 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: The fast-flying Iranian Air Force pilots, in action simultaneous with the outstanding victories of the combatants of Islam, this morning, in five separate sorties, bombed enemy positions and assembly points, in operation Karbala-5 theater. They all returned safely to their bases.

Missiles Fired at Iraqi Positions
LD201115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1005 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: According to correspondents' reports from the operational zone, continuing the battles of the forces of Islam in the Shalamcheh sector, the

fast-flying pilots of the Army aviation flew several sorties during which they fired missiles at enemy assembly points and fortifications in the Karbala'-5 zone. Heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on the enemy. All the pilots returned safely to their bases.

Iraqi Casualties Total 31,500

LD201055 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala'-5 Operational Region, Jan 20, IRNA — Units of the Iraqi forces on west of Jasim River, sustained heavy losses and casualties, Monday night. The Muslim forces of Iran in a blitz attack on enemy troops in the region smashed their defence lines, killing or injuring 1,500 of them. A group of them were also captured, a number of whom have been transferred behind war fronts.

Since the start of the operation Jan 9, till noon Tuesday 2,200 of the Iraqi POW's have been transferred behind war fronts.

In the overnight operations tens of Iraqi tanks, armoured vehicles, and personnel carriers were destroyed by the Iranian forces. The Monday night casualties of the Iraqi forces brings to 31,500 number of Iraqis killed or wounded in the ongoing Karbala'-5 operations.

Captured Commander on Iraqi 'Discord'

LD191232 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Southern Operational Region, Jan 19, IRNA — An Iraqi commander captured in the Karbala'-5 operations said that Ba'thist dictator Saddam Husayn should flee the country. The Iraqi major, who requested anonymity revealed that there is a wide-spread discord in Saddam's Army. He said Iraqi forces are dispirited following successive defeats at the hands of the constantly advancing Muslim forces of Iran, and that the possibility of total capitulation is likely.

The commander said he was amazed at the Muslim combatants' ability to by-pass Iraqi forces and cut their supply roads behind the fronts. He further said that most of the commanders of Brigade 94 along with personnel of the brigade were killed, wounded or captured.

The major accompanied by another captured colonel expressed appreciation for the Muslim combatants' Islamic and humane behavior. He emphasized that Saddam's propaganda is weak.

'Three More' Iraqi Planes Downed

LD201646 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Southern and Western Operational Theaters, Jan 20, IRNA — Three more Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the Karbala'-5 and Karbala'-6 operational theaters Tuesday.

Two Iraqi warplanes were shot down over the Karbala'-5 operational theater in Shalamcheh region bringing to 49 the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the start of the Karbala'-5 operations early January 9.

Meanwhile Iranian surface-to-air fire shot down another Iraqi jet fighter over the Karbala'-6 operational theater in Sumar region Tuesday.

Communique No 17 Issued

LD191132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Communique No 17 "issued a few moments ago" by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters the center of the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the brave forces of monotheism who are still marching against the feeble enemy, bringing glad tidings of victory for the nation of Islam with their relentless battles.

O nation of Islam; O resisting and combative nation. Last night, units of Guards Corps' Ground Forces, including the Fajr Division from Fars Province; the Sayyid al-Shuhada Division from Tehran; the Ansar al-Husayn Division from Hamadan; the Najaf-e Ashraf Division from Najafabad and Kashan; the 'Ali ibn al-Abitalib Division from the central province; and the Sar al-Lah Division from Kerman commenced the third phase of the "Karbala'-5" operations to the east of Basra. Enjoying the support of the independent Zolfaqar Armored Battalion from Kerman, the Zafar Armored Battalion from Esfahan, and the independent Ramadan Armored Battalion from Tehran, they crushed enemy defense lines.

Following a heavy clash with the Zionist enemy on a 3-km-wide axis, they crossed the Jasim River and took up positions 1 km west of the river.

Following the liberation of Bawarin, Umm Al-Tuwaylah, and (Fayaziyah) Islands, the mighty combatants of Islam took control of communication bridges on four other important islands in the sector. During the operation, heavy blows were dealt to the 5th Mechanized Division and a number of Iraqi brigades. More than 2,000 Zionist forces were killed or wounded, bringing the number of enemy killed or wounded since the start of the "Karbala'-5" operation to 29,000. A number of enemy troops were captured: 260 have been transferred behind the lines, bringing the number of Iraqi POW's transferred since the start of the operation to 2,010.

During last night's operation our mighty combatants destroyed 20 enemy tanks and personnel carriers; captured intact 10 tanks and personnel carriers; and destroyed 25 other types of enemy vehicles. By bringing enemy positions and assembly points under fire, the combatants of Islam are depriving the enemy all movement, and they are strengthening their positions.

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

Further 'Inhuman' Iraqi Air Raids

LD201743 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20, IRNA — One hundred and fifty seven civilians were martyred and 428 others wounded in the latest inhuman Iraqi air raids on residential areas of the Iranian cities of Khorramabad, Hamadan, Eslamabad-e Gharb, and Esfahan Tuesday.

Iraqi jet-fighters also attempted to raid Kashan, Saqqez, Tabriz, and Arak several times Tuesday but were forced to flee without carrying out their sinister missions by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire. The intruding warplanes broke the sound barrier while fleeing.

In Khorramabad, Lorestan Province, 100 civilians were martyred and 200 others wounded in the brutal Iraqi air raids on the residential areas of the city. Several houses were also destroyed or damaged.

In Hamadan, the Iraqi air raid on civilian areas left 47 martyred and 200 others wounded until 18:30 hours local time (15:00 GMT) Tuesday. Some houses and shops were also devastated.

Iraqi warplanes also bombed the city of Eslamabad-e Gharb at 14:30 hours local time (11:00 GMT) Tuesday martyring 10 persons and wounding 20 others.

Eight civilians were wounded and a number of houses damaged as Iraqi jet-fighters bombed civilian areas in Esfahan Tuesday morning.

Iraqis Raid Cities 20-21 Jan

LD210638 Tehran IRNA in English 0636 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 21, IRNA — Iraqi war planes bombed two residential areas of Hamadan, central Iran, at 19:45 local time (16:15 GMT) Tuesday, martyring one civilian and injuring four others.

The Iraqi bombers also broke the sound barrier over the city of Kashan, central Iran, 15 minutes later. The Tuesday night air raids of Iraqi war planes on Qom and Kashan were foiled by the heavy air defense fire.

Meanwhile the Iraqi jet fighters violated the air space of Esfahan and Qom early Wednesday morning. Iraqi bombers dropped their bombs outside these two cities due to heavy anti aircraft fire of Muslim forces. The sound barrier in Kashan was also broken early Wednesday morning.

The air raids on Esfahan, Qom, and Kashan on Tuesday and early Wednesday morning had no casualties.

The air space of Arak, central Iran, was violated at 19:40 (16:10 GMT) Tuesday and 05-15 (01:45 GMT) Wednesday. The Iraqi aircraft broke the sound barrier over the city.

IRGC Units Shell Iraqi Garisson

LD210733 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala'-5 Operational Region, Jan 21, IRNA — The Darihieh [name as received] garisson, economic and military centers of the Iraqi city of Al-Amarah, in Maysan Province, 150 kms north of the port city of Basra, is under artillery fire of the Muslim combatants. Artillery units of Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), in retaliation for repeated Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities, started shelling the garisson and the centers at 18:20 hours local time Tuesday (14:50 hours GMT). The shelling will continue as long as Iraq continues its attacks on Iranian residential areas.

The Iraqi regime humiliated by the defeat of its Armed Forces and unable to fight against the Iranian troops in war fronts has started attacking Iranian cities martyring large numbers of civilians and causing damage.

Iraqi Township Du'ayji Under Seige

LD210817 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala'-5 Operational Region, Jan 21, IRNA — Iraqi township of Du'ayji, west of Shalamcheh, is under seige of the Muslim combatants of Iran. The Iranian troops encircled the township Wednesday morning and fierce fighting reportedly continues in the operational region for the liberation of the city.

Iraqis Smashed; Du'ayji Liberated

LD210847 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala'-5 Operational Region, Jan 21, IRNA — The Iraqi township of Du'ayji, west of Shalamcheh, was liberated by the Muslim forces of Iran Wednesday morning. The Iranian forces smashed the remainder of the Iraqi forces in Du'ayji, which had been turned into a military township.

Hundreds of Iraqi forces were reported to have been killed or wounded in the battle which resulted in its take over by the Iranian troops. A number of enemy troops were also taken captive. A large amount of munitions were destroyed or set ablaze in the township. The Muslim combatants are reportedly strengthening their positions in the areas.

Tehran on Fall of Du'ayji

LD210955 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0918 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The military township of Du'ayji, which was liberated by the combatants of Islam after a heavy clash, was one of Iraq's important bases west of Shalamcheh sector.

After the aggression by the Iraqi regime [onset of the war], the township's inhabitants were evacuated. Its houses and installations were placed at the disposal of the Iraqi forces. The Iraqi regime rebuilt some of its installations and turned it into a strong

fortress and a secure base for the Iraqi forces. Concrete bunkers surrounded by minefields, barbed wire, and star-shaped obstacles were among the preparations by the Ba'thist regime of Baghdad to prevent the Iranian forces from infiltrating the sector. These obstacles are in addition to the fortifications placed around Du'ayji township, in the palm groves in the east of Basra. The township is in the west of Shalamcheh and on both sides of Du'ayji River, which was liberated by the forces of Islam just now.

At present, our combatants are mopping up the township. The township, which is surrounded by half-burnt palm groves, is witnessing the presence of the forces of monotheism. With God's help, victory is nigh.

Iraq's 93d Brigade Partly Destroyed
LD211006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0905 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O heroic nation of Iran, we have just received reports from the Karbala'-5 operational zone that during heavy clashes with the Zionist enemy, the combatants of Islam surrounded Iraq's 93d Infantry Brigade [number as heard] and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on it, destroying at least 25 percent of it.

Further Brigades 'Destroyed'
LD211203 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 21, IRNA — Iraq's Du'ayji township was liberated by Muslim forces of Iran after a fierce battle with Iraqi Ba'thist troops who had erected many fortifications around the requisitioned township. The Du'ayji River and its nearby villages had already been liberated by the Iranian forces in previous stages of the Karbala'-5 operations.

Some 30 to 90 percent of Infantry Brigades 417, 93, and Armoured Brigade 50 of the 12th Division as well as Infantry Brigade 36 of the 4th Division were destroyed in continuation of the victorious Iranian operations in east of Basra.

A large number of the personnel of the abovementioned Iraqi brigades were killed or wounded and scores of enemy tanks, armoured personnel carriers, and vehicles destroyed by the Iranian combatants.

Damage Inflicted on Iraqi Brigades
LD210835 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Karbala'-5 Operational Region, Jan 21, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran in the continuation of the ongoing victorious Karbala'-5 operations, inflicted heavy casualties and damage on six Iraqi brigades Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

About 1,500 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and a large number of their tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed. Some 30 Iraqis captured during the fighting were transferred behind the war fronts, bringing the total number of Iraqi POW's transferred behind the fronts since the launching of the operations to 2,235.

Infantry Brigades 83 and 417, Armoured Brigade 50 of Division No 12, Infantry Brigades 44 and 36 of Division No 4, and Infantry Brigade 47 of Division No 11 sustained damage of 25, 30, 25, 90, 15, and 20 percent respectively. The Muslim combatants of Iran are continuing their fight with the Iraqi enemy in Shalamcheh operational region.

Iraq's Irbil 'Heavily Bombed'
LD211101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] In retaliation for the attacks of the Zionist enemy on the residential parts of our country, at 0748 this morning the brave pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran with a number of their fighter-bombers heavily bombed economic and military installations in Irbil in Iraq. After inflicting heavy losses and casualties upon the Zionist enemy all of them returned safely to their bases.

Iraqi Military Centers Hit
LD201223 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed economic and military centers in the Iraqi cities of Kuysanjaq and Qarah Tappah in Irbil Province at 08:02 and 09:17 GMT Tuesday, said a Joint Staff communique here. The communique said that the fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy losses on enemy.

Iraqis Bomb Ilam 'Several Times'
LD211108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi regime at 1316 [1046 GMT] today bombed the residential areas of the steadfast town of Ilam several times. This dastardly attack caused the martyrdom and wounding of a number of our compatriots in that town.

3 Iraqi Warplanes Downed
LD211216 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Jan 21, IRNA — Three more Iraqi warplanes were shot down by anti-aircraft fire of Iranian Muslim combatants in the Karbala'-5 operational theater in Shalamcheh region Wednesday. There was no immediate report on the fate of the planes' pilots. The downing of these three warplanes raised to 52 the number of Iraqi jet fighters downed since the start of the Karbala'-5 operations early January 9. The enemy fighters tried to raid Iranian positions in the operational theater but were shot down by Iranian surface-to-air fire before carrying out any bombing mission.

Tupolev Downed in Karbala'-6 Area

LD201801 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Western Operational Region, Jan 20, IRNA — The Iraqi fighter which was shot down by Iran's anti-aircraft fire Tuesday was a Tupolev bomber. The enemy plane intended to bombard positions of Iran's Islamic combatants in Karbala'-6 operational theater but was shot down by the fire of Iranian defence units stationed in the region. The plane crashed inside Iraqi territory.

Further Communiques Detail Combat Operations

No 2,721

LD101632 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 19, IRNA — Iraqi positions, strongholds, and troop concentration centers were heavily pounded by Iranian fighter bombers at 7:25, 8:05, 8:50, 10:55, 13:05 hours (3:55, 4:35, 5:20, 7:35, 9:34 GMT) Monday, sustaining considerable casualties and losses. All planes returned safely to bases, said the Joint Staff Communique Number 2,721 here Monday.

The communique said that Iranian Ground Forces fired seven mid-range surface-to-surface missiles at Iraqi economic and military installations in Basra and Khanaqin Sunday and Monday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

Anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants downed an Iraqi warplane in Karbala'-5 operational region Sunday while their long-range artillery fire kept up a steady pounding of Iraqi garrisons and economic centers along the border line, inflicting major damage on them, said the communique.

Movements of enemy forces in southern fronts came under heavy Iranian fire during which casualties were inflicted on enemy units, the communique said.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces disrupted Iraqi engineering activities and destroyed seven enemy gun emplacements, killing several Ba'thist soldiers.

According to the communique intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Eslamabad, Dehloran, Masjed-e Soleyman, Nahavand, and Malayer Sunday, martyring and wounding scores of civilians.

No 2,722

LD201711 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20, IRNA — Scores of civilians were martyred and wounded in Iraqi air raids on residential areas of the Iranian cities of Esfahan, Tabriz, Bakhtaran, Saqqez, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Dezful, Qom, Hamadan, and Khorramabad on Monday and Tuesday. Most cities were bombed several times, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2,722 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iranian jet fighters retaliated the Iraqi air raids by heavily bombing economic and military centers of the Iraqi cities of Qarah Tappah, Kuysanjaq, and Al-Kut at 08:02, 09:17, and 11:15 GMT Tuesday.

The fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi troops.

Excellent air cover was provided for advancing Iranian forces in the Karbala'-5 operational theater with Iranian jet fighters heavily bombarding enemy fortifications and troop concentration sites in this war theater eight times Tuesday.

The fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing missions which took place at 07:45, 10:18, 11:15, 11:55, 12:25, 15:05, 15:35, and 16:40 hours local time (04:15, 06:48, 07:45, 08:25, 08:55, 11:35 GMT) Tuesday. [two GMT's missing as received]

A mid-range surface-to-surface missile was fired at a target in the southern Iraqi city of Basra at 11:00 hours local time (07:30 GMT) Tuesday. An Iraqi warplane was also shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the southern fronts at 04:15 GMT Monday.

The Joint Staff communique added that three Iraqi vessels which tried to venture from the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr in the Khawr 'Abdallah water were shelled and forced to flee while sustaining damage by Iranian coastal artillery fire at 17:45 GMT Monday.

A cargo ship suspected of carrying goods for Iraq was impounded and escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection by Iranian gunboats at 11:30 GMT Tuesday.

Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected 19 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq.

Exchange of sporadic artillery fire continued throughout the fronts Monday. In the southern, western, and northwestern fronts, all Iraqi efforts to reinforce troops in the Karbala'-5 and Karbala'-6 operational theaters were foiled by Iranian combatants.

Muslim forces of Iran heavily shelled Iraqi supply columns throughout the fronts Monday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.